SATURDAY
December 17, 2022

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Modi talks to Putin, calls for dialogue

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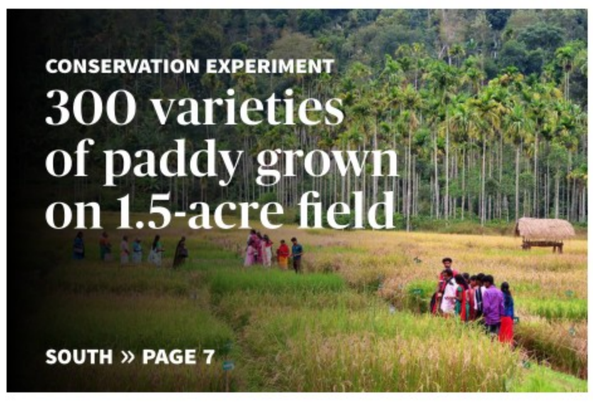

CONSERVATION EXPERIMENT

300 varieties of paddy grown on 1.5-acre field

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SC Benches won't be available during break

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CHANNEL ACQUISITION

What it takes to be a good media product

On objectivity, having the courage to criticise

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GILL, PUJARA ON SONG

India sets Bangladesh a 513-run target

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NEARBY

Civic polls likely only after Assembly polls

BENGALURU

It is now almost certain that civic polls in Bengaluru will be held only after the Assembly elections scheduled for May 2023. » PAGE 2

Reddy set for political re-entry?

KALABURAGI/BELAGAVI

The griha pravesha ceremony held on Thursday of three inter-connected housing units at Gangavati in Koppal district, believed to be obtained on lease by Gali Janardhan Reddy, former Minister, is one more step in his attempted re-entry into electoral politics from outside Ballari. » PAGE 6

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Bilawal's comments on Modi 'uncivilised': India

These comments are a new low, even for Pakistan... perpetrators of the 26/11 attacks as well as mastermind of the 1993 Mumbai blasts, all remain free in that country, says MEA spokesperson

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India lashed out at Pakistan on Friday for what it termed an "uncivilised outburst" by Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, stating that cities across the world "bear the scars" of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism.

The comments are a continuation of a heated exchange that began at a United Nations Security Council briefing on counter-terrorism in New York on Thursday, where External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had described Pakistan as the "epicentre of terrorism".

In his response, Mr. Bhutto Zardari had said, "Osama bin Laden is dead. But the butcher of Gujarat lives and he is the Prime Minister of India."

> Cities like New York, Mumbai, Pulwama, Pathankot and London are among the many that bear the scars of Pakistan-sponsored, supported and instigated terrorism
>
> **ARINDAM BAGCHI**
> Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson

"Pakistan Foreign Minister's uncivilised outburst seems to be a result of Pakistan's increasing inability to use terrorists and their proxies," said Arindam Bagchi, official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs. "We wish that Pakistan Foreign Minister would have listened more sincerely yesterday [Thursday] at the UN Security Council to the testimony of Ms. Anjali Kulthe, a Mumbai nurse who saved the lives of 20 pregnant women from the bullets of the Pakistani terrorist, Ajmal Kasab. Clearly, the Foreign Minister was more interested in whitewashing Pakistan's role."

Mr. Bagchi further said that the perpetrators of the 26/11 attacks, Hafiz Saeed, Masood Azhar and Sajjad Mir, as well as the mastermind of the 1993 Mumbai bomb blasts, Dawood Ibrahim, all remained free in Pakistan. "Cities like New York, Mumbai, Pulwama, Pathankot and London are among the many that bear the scars of Pakistan-sponsored and instigated terrorism. This violence has emanated from their Special Terrorist Zones and exported to all parts of the world. 'Make in Pakistan' terrorism has to stop," said the spokesperson.

Responding to Mr. Bhutto Zardari's attack on the Prime Minister, Mr. Bagchi said: "These comments are a new low, even for Pakistan. The Foreign Minister of Pakistan has obviously forgotten this day in 1971 [Liberation of Bangladesh on December 16], which was a direct result of the genocide unleashed by Pakistani rulers against ethnic Bengalis and Hindus."

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

High alert: Security personnel standing guard following the killing of two persons in Rajouri district in J&K on Friday. PTI

2 die in firing near Army camp in J&K

The Hindu Bureau
JAMMU

Two civilians were killed in a "firing incident" outside an Army camp in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday.

"In an early morning firing incident by unidentified terrorists at Rajouri near the Military Hospital, there has been fatal casualty of two individuals. The police, security forces and civil administration officials are at the site," the Army said in a tweet.

Preliminary reports said the firing took place around 6 a.m. outside the Alpha Gate of the Army camp on the Poonch-Rajouri highway. The victims were identified as Kamal Kumar and Surinder Kumar from Rajouri district.

According to local residents, the two were working in the Army's canteen. Contesting the Army statement that terrorists fired at the two civilians, the locals sought a probe. The incident triggered protests in Rajouri, with demonstrators blocking the highway.

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'Kashi Tamil Sangamam will unite the country'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

'Kashi Tamil Sangamam' is an attempt to bring a cultural renaissance that will unite the country and connect different languages, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Friday.

He was addressing the closing ceremony of the 30-day event, during which nearly 2,500 visitors from Tamil Nadu arrived in Varanasi.

The Home Minister shared the dais with Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and Bharatiya Janata Party's Tamil Nadu unit president K. Annamalai.

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FORGING A CONNECT
» PAGE 9

New Year's Eve celebrations to resume on Brigade Road

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

At a meeting City Police Commissioner C.H. Pratap Reddy held on Friday, with associations of hoteliers and pubs, it was decided that New Year's Eve celebrations will be allowed on Brigade Road this December 31, after a two-year break owing to the pandemic. Brigade Shops and Establishments Association consented to illuminate Brigade Road to help the security agency maintain law and order.

They requested the police to provide security, and regulate the celebrations.

The association also urged the police chief to ban traffic movement, and deploy foolproof security to ensure that there are no law and order issues, Suhail Yusuf, secretary, BSEA, said.

Precautionary measures

Mr. Reddy said all precautionary measures have been discussed and the hotel, pubs, and commercial establishment representatives have been given instructions to help the police maintain law and order, and ensure security for women and children. The order includes deployment of additional staff, CCTV camera surveillance, and adequate lighting.

The city police will soon come out with guidelines for the New Year's Eve celebrations.

Pourakarmikas to soon get 'manually push operated sweeping machines'

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

In a first, pourakarmikas of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will soon get "manually push operated sweeping machines," replacing brooms to clean the city's roads.

The civic body has decided to procure 815 sweeping machines similar to vacuum cleaners which pourakarmikas can use by just pushing the machines with their hands on the streets to clean the roads, which will suck dust and clean the streets.

The BBMP has recently held trials of the machines along with pourakarmikas and based on positive feedback, the success the civic body has called for the tender to procure 815 vacuum cleaners. Speaking to *The Hindu*, a senior BBMP official said, "The machines have been used on trial basis by a few pourakarmikas and they have liked it since it will minimise the workload compared to the broomstick. Pourakarmikas just have to push this cart and there is no need to bend when using broomsticks."

BBMP has decided to procure 815 sweeping machines similar to vacuum cleaners which pourakarmikas can use by just pushing with their hands on the streets to clean the roads. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"In the trial use, we found that the machine reduces the time of cleaning the streets and also the effort by the pourakarmikas. Hence, we decided to procure machines. After this, we will gradually distribute similar machines to all pourakarmikas working under BBMP limits," the official added.

How it works

The 'manually push operated sweeping machines' will cost approximately around ₹40,000 per machine, according to BBMP. The machine doesn't need electricity or fuel and will work on manpower.

"There will be four brushes in each corner of the machine and two brushes beneath the cart through which dust particles on the road will be pulled inside the waste box of the cart. The machine will have two small wheels and a handle to push the cart," the official explained.

The civic body claims that the machine has the capacity to hold about 5 kg of dust. "The machine will pull materials such as dust, small stones, leaves and small plastic and paper materials on the road. The machine can be used for at least one kilometre per day," the official added.

In BBMP limits, there are around 16,000 pourakarmikas on who are deployed for sweeping the streets.

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The day you don't feel the need to apologise.
The day you begin a love story with yourself.
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M BG-BGE

The deepening imprint of Asia on the global map

For the first time in FIFA World Cup history, three AFC sides – South Korea, Japan and Australia – made it to the knockouts, forcing the footballing heavyweights to sit up and take notice

Neeladri Bhattacharjee

With the full-time whistle against Portugal, Son Heung-Min, the captain of South Korea, removed his face mask, knelt on the ground and broke down in tears.

The Koreans had made it beyond the group stage after 12 years - three World Cups - and this time there were no accusations of robbery' or 'thieves of dreams' against them.

But Korea was not alone from the continent which had impressed in Qatar.

Just the second World Cup to be hosted in Asia after 2002, this edition has seen a seismic shift in team dimensions in the tournament.

Three countries from the Asian Football Confederation made it to the pre-quarterfinals for the first time.

First, Lionel Messi - one of the finest-ever to embrace the game, with 95 international goals and donning the No. 10 jersey of Diego Maradona - saw his team open the tournament with a loss to Saudi Arabia.

"It's a very hard blow for everyone, we didn't expect to start like this," repented the seven-time Ballon D'Or.

The beginning

Saudi Arabia had come into the World Cup with no wins in the tournament since June 1994 - when it had qualified for the round of 16.

In its opening game against Argentina, Messi who scored from the spot, giving *La Albiceleste* the lead in the 10th minute, the then-quickest goal in the tournament.

But a half-time chat - led by Saudi coach Herve Renard - saw a rejuvenated team take the field.

"Don't you feel we have a chance to come back? Come on guys, come on, this is a World Cup! Give everything! When you are at the edge of the box, you are stationary.....be mobile! Concentrate and be attentive," Renard had exclaimed.

Three minutes after restart, the Saudis were level.

Saleh Al-Shehri scored the first and Salem Al-Dawsari - with a curling right-footed strike - found the net in the 53rd minute.

Renard's 'comeback' - was complete.

The ocean of blue-and-white at the Lusail Stadium stood gobsmacked is disbelief as an Asian side woke from slumber, giving glimpses of 1994.

Another Asian country, another late attack, another historic win.

Wales looked to have sealed a draw against Iran, strengthening its hopes of making the knockouts. But a horrendous tackle on Mehdi Taremi by Wayne Hennessey saw the Wales goalkeeper get a straight red.

Though Wales hung on momentarily, Roozbeh Cheshmi gave Iran the breakthrough with a powerful hit from outside the box in the eighth minute of second-half stoppage time, leaving the defenders on the ground.

Three minutes later, Ramin Razaeian doubled the lead and just like that, Wales' historic return to the tournament after 64 years, was marred by the prospect of an early exit.

In 1993, Japan, drawing 2-2 against Iraq in the Asian qualifiers, had missed out on the FIFA World Cup in 1994. Hajime Moriyasu, the current head coach of Japan, was part of the squad then.

> I had the privilege of playing against Diego Maradona & now coaching Messi
>
> **GRAHAM ARNOLD**
> Coach, Australia

The stadium was Khalifa International Stadium.

Nearly two decades later, Japan started its World Cup campaign in that very stadium with a miraculous comeback.

The Samurai Blues' grit saw them come from behind in two of their three group-stage matches and those, too, against former World Champions, Spain and Germany.

Moriyasu's strategy to wait and fire late saw his side score four second-half goals as it topped Group E, becoming the first Asian side to qualify for the round of 16 as the group topper.

But his decision-making changed Japan's core squad, just months before the tournament began. Despite leaving out forwards Kyogo Furuhashi and Yuya Osako, retaining a core from European leagues proved instrumental in Japan's round-of-16 finish in Qatar.

All its goalscorers in the tournament, Ritsu Doan (Freiburg), Takuma Asano (Bochum), Ao Tanaka (Fortuna Dusseldorf) and Daizen (Maeda) play in European leagues.

Drawn alongside a two-time World Cup winner Uruguay and a European Champion Portugal, looked like an uphill battle for South Korea, which had not qualified beyond the group stage since 2010.

It remained undefeated against both, beating the latter courtesy Son's heroic run from defence to attack, which assisted Hee-Chan Hwang's second-half injury time winner.

It came very close to beating Ghana, which rode on Mohammed Kudus' brace to snatch a win in a tug-of-war of a fixture.

For Australia - which geographically is not under Asia, but falls under AFC - it was walking on thin ice, qualifying for the knockouts with two 1-0 wins.

Nevertheless, both qualified and the two along with Japan became the flagbearers of Asia's progress in global football.

The FIFA World Cup knockouts, which were graced by usual suspects from Europe and South America, now had three from the Asian Confederation as well.

This, in itself, is a huge achievement for the continent, given the years of struggle it has had to endure in front of gatekeepers of the game from Europe and South America.

Asia did not have a designated slot in the World Cup until 1986.

Subsequently, the continent has seen its allocation increase from two in 1990 to three, and a possible fourth qualifier, in 1998.

In 2022, six countries from AFC played in a FIFA World Cup for the first time and half of them made it beyond the group stage - a testimony of what higher representation can do for Asia.

Recruitment and development of Asian footballers has also burgeoned over the years, rubbishing the theory of players being sequestered in the leagues within the continent.

The South Korea team - which played the semifinal 20 years ago - had two players from European leagues.

The one in Qatar, this year, had four times of the count, including captain Son - an ever-reliable goalscorer for Tottenham Hotspur.

The other side of the coin saw Saudi Arabia and Qatar - two Asian sides with all players from its own leagues - get knocked out early, with Saudi's truimph over Argentina being a notable aberration.

With the 2026 World Cup set to have 48 teams, Asia will look to carry on the legacy of not just upsets, but historic runs like Morocco, into the semifinals or perhaps, even beyond.

> I could feel that the times have changed. These players are playing in a new age of football. Asians can win on the world stage. Japan can win on the world stage. All the people involved in Asia can share our happiness
>
> **HAJIME MORIYASU**
> Coach, Japan

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Carlos Alcaraz	19	6,820	17
2	Rafael Nadal	36	6,020	14
3	Casper Ruud	23	5,820	23
4	Stefanos Tsitsipas	24	5,550	23
5	Novak Djokovic	35	4,820	14
6	Felix Auger-Aliassime	22	4,195	26
7	Daniil Medvedev	26	4,065	21
8	Andrey Rublev	25	3,930	23
9	Taylor Fritz	25	3,355	22
10	Hubert Hurkacz	25	2,905	21
11	Holger Rune	19	2,888	27
12	Alexander Zverev	25	2,700	18
13	Pablo Carreno Busta	31	2,495	24
14	Cameron Norrie	27	2,445	23
15	Jannik Sinner	21	2,410	18

Top Indians ▶

Sasikumar Mukund
Rank 342 ▲ 1 spot

Prajnesh Gunneswaran
Rank 349 ▲ 2 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Iga Swiatek	21	11,085	17
2	Ons Jabeur	28	5,055	18
3	Jessica Pegula	28	4,691	18
4	Caroline Garcia	29	4,375	23
5	Aryna Sabalenka	24	3,925	21
6	Maria Sakkari	27	3,871	22
7	Coco Gauff	18	3,646	19
8	Daria Kasatkina	25	3,435	23
9	Veronika Kudermetova	25	2,795	20
10	Simona Halep	31	2,661	15
11	Madison Keys	27	2,417	20
12	Belinda Bencic	25	2,365	19
13	Paula Badosa	25	2,363	21
14	Danielle Collins	29	2,287	13
15	Beatriz Haddad Maia	26	2,215	24

Top Indians ▶

Karman Thandi
Rank 264 ▼ 1 spot

Ankita Raina
Rank 300 ▼ 22 spots

English Premier League Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Arsenal	14	12	1	1	33	11	22	37
2	Man. City	14	10	2	2	40	14	26	32
3	Newcastle	15	8	6	1	29	11	18	30
4	Tottenham	15	9	2	4	31	21	10	29
5	Man. United	14	8	2	4	20	20	0	26
6	Liverpool	14	6	4	4	28	17	11	22
7	Brighton	14	6	3	5	23	19	4	21
8	Chelsea	14	6	3	5	17	17	0	21
9	Fulham	15	5	4	6	24	26	-2	19
10	Brentford	15	4	7	4	23	25	-2	19
11	Crystal Palace	14	5	4	5	15	18	-3	19
12	Aston Villa	15	5	3	7	16	22	-6	18
13	Leicester City	15	5	2	8	25	25	0	17
14	Bournemouth	15	4	4	7	18	32	-14	16
15	Leeds United	14	4	3	7	22	26	-4	15
16	West Ham	15	4	2	9	12	17	-5	14
17	Everton	15	3	5	7	11	17	-6	14
18	Nottingham	15	3	4	8	11	30	-19	13
19	Southampton	15	3	3	9	13	27	-14	12
20	Wolves	15	2	4	9	8	24	-16	10

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Barcelona	14	12	1	1	33	5	28	37
2	Real Madrid	14	11	2	1	33	14	19	35
3	Real Sociedad	14	8	2	4	19	17	2	26
4	Athletic Bilbao	14	7	3	4	24	14	10	24
5	Atletico Madrid	14	7	3	4	21	14	7	24
6	Real Betis	14	7	3	4	17	12	5	24
7	Osasuna	14	7	2	5	16	14	2	23
8	Rayo Vallecano	14	6	4	4	20	16	4	22
9	Villarreal	14	6	3	5	15	10	5	21
10	Valencia	14	5	4	5	22	15	7	19
11	Real Mallorca	14	5	4	5	13	13	0	19
12	Real Valladolid	14	5	2	7	13	21	-8	17
13	Girona	14	4	4	6	20	22	-2	16
14	Almeria	14	5	1	8	16	22	-6	16
15	Getafe	14	3	5	6	12	20	-8	14
16	Espanyol	14	2	6	6	16	22	-6	12
17	Celta Vigo	14	3	3	8	14	26	-12	12
18	Sevilla	14	2	5	7	13	22	-9	11
19	Cadiz	14	2	5	7	9	26	-17	11
20	Elche	14	0	4	10	10	31	-21	4

Italian Serie A Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Napoli	15	13	2	0	37	12	25	41
2	AC Milan	15	10	3	2	29	15	14	33
3	Juventus	15	9	4	2	24	7	17	31
4	Lazio	15	9	3	3	26	11	15	30
5	Inter Milan	15	10	0	5	34	22	12	30
6	Atalanta	15	8	3	4	22	15	7	27
7	Roma	15	8	3	4	18	14	4	27
8	Udinese	15	6	6	3	24	17	7	24
9	Torino	15	6	3	6	16	17	-1	21
10	Fiorentina	15	5	4	6	18	20	-2	19
11	Bologna	15	5	4	6	20	25	-5	19
12	Salernitana	15	4	5	6	19	24	-5	17
13	Empoli	15	4	5	6	12	19	-7	17
14	Monza	15	5	1	9	16	22	-6	16
15	Sassuolo	15	4	4	7	15	22	-7	16
16	Lecce	15	3	6	6	14	17	-3	15
17	Spezia	15	3	4	8	14	26	-12	13
18	Cremonese	15	0	7	8	11	26	-15	7
19	Sampdoria	15	1	3	11	6	27	-21	6
20	Verona	15	1	2	12	12	29	-17	5

German Bundesliga Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Bayern	15	10	4	1	49	13	36	34
2	SC Freiburg	15	9	3	3	25	17	8	30
3	RB Leipzig	15	8	4	3	30	21	9	28
4	Eintracht	15	8	3	4	32	24	8	27
5	Union Berlin	15	8	3	4	24	20	4	27
6	Dortmund	15	8	1	6	25	21	4	25
7	Wolfsburg	15	6	5	4	24	20	4	23
8	M'gladbach	15	6	4	5	28	24	4	22
9	Werder	15	6	3	6	25	27	-2	21
10	Mainz	15	5	4	6	19	24	-5	19
11	Hoffenheim	15	5	3	7	22	22	0	18
12	Leverkusen	15	5	3	7	25	26	-1	18
13	Cologne	15	4	5	6	21	29	-8	17
14	FC Augsburg	15	4	3	8	18	26	-8	15
15	Hertha Berlin	15	3	5	7	19	22	-3	14
16	Stuttgart	15	3	5	7	18	27	-9	14
17	Bochum	15	4	1	10	14	36	-22	13
18	Schalke	15	2	3	10	13	32	-19	9

Test Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Marnus Labuschagne	937	937
2	Steve Smith	875	947
3	Babar Azam	871	879
4	Joe Root	876	923
5	Rishabh Pant	801	801
6	Kane Williamson	786	919
7	Travis Head	774	774
8	Usman Khawaja	749	779
9	Dimuth Karunaratne	748	782
10	Rohit Sharma	746	813

Test Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Pat Cummins	878	914
2	James Anderson	843	903
3	R Ashwin	842	904
4	Jasprit Bumrah	828	835
5	Shaheen Afridi	811	836
6	Ollie Robinson	801	801
7	Kagsio Rabada	799	902
8	Kyle Jamieson	788	836
9	Mitchell Starc	756	806
10	Neil Wagner	747	859

ODI Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Babar Azam	890	898
2	Imam-ul-Haq	779	815
3	Rassie van der Dussen	766	796
4	Quinton de Kock	759	813
5	David Warner	747	880
6	Steve Smith	719	752
7	Jonny Bairstow	710	796
8	Virat Kohli	707	911
9	Rohit Sharma	705	885
10	Kane Williamson	700	799

ODI Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Trent Boult	752	775
2	Josh Hazlewood	727	733
3	Mitchell Starc	665	783
4	Matt Henry	663	691
5	Shaheen Afridi	661	688
6	Rashid Khan	659	806
7	Adam Zampa	655	655
8	Shaikb Al Hasan	652	717
9	Mustaafizur Rahman	638	695
10	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	637	712

T20I Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Suryakumar Yadav	890	895
2	Mohammad Rizwan	836	875
3	Devon Conway	788	831
4	Babar Azam	778	896
5	Aiden Markram	748	796
6	Dawid Malan	719	915
7	Glenn Phillips	699	703
8	Rilee Rossouw	693	693
9	Aaron Finch	680	900
10	Pathum Nissanka	673	698

T20I Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Wanindu Hasaranga	704	797
2	Rashid Khan	698	816
3	Adil Rashid	692	746
4	Josh Hazlewood	690	806
5	Sam Curran	688	688
6	Tabraiz Shamsi	681	821
7	Adam Zampa	678	743
8	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	677	745
9	Anrich Nortje	659	695
10	Maheesh Theekshana	655	680

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement)

BESCOM invites tender vide Enquiry No: BESCOM/BCP-1438/2022-23 for **Procurement of Kitchen Equipments and Cutlery items required for BESCOM Training Centre and Research Institute at Ramangara**.

Bid Documents available from: **17.12.2022 to 31.12.2022, 15:00 hrs.** Last date for submission of Bids: **31.12.2022, 15:00 hrs.** Opening of Technical bids: **02.01.2023, 15:15 hrs**. The Tender documents can be obtained through e-procurement portal web-site https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Aspiring Bidders need to register on e-procurement portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with e-procurement help desk contact numbers +91-8046010000, +91-8068948777 or email at **support@eprochelpdesk.com**.

Sd/-
The General Manager (Ele.), Procurement, BESCOM
Ph. No.: 080-22354939

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP

Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground water Development, Division, Shimoga.

SECTION 1-INVITATION FOR TENDERS KW-3&4

Dated:29.11.2022 **IFT No.: 27/2022-23**

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground water Development Division, Shimoga invites tenders in Standard Bid Document K/W-4 through e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka, viz.,http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from eligible contractors for 01 work coming under Tarikere sub-division amounting to Rs. 252.20 lakhs. Period of downloading tender documents from e-procurement portal: From 13.12.2022 to 28.12.2022 upto 17:00hrs. Tender opening date at 17:15 hrs on 29.12.2022. Any other details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days. Details published on the e-procurement website @ http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in are final.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, M.I & G.W.D. Division, Shimoga.

DIPR/smg/No.97/12/mca/22-23/1476

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08382-2205561 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 08382-220795 ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: predkarwar@gmail.com
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ:ಪಂರಾ.ಇಂ/ಕಾ/ಪಿಬಿ-1/2022-23/1357 ದಿ: 14.12.2022

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ-39/2022-23 (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರವಾರ ಇವರಿಂದ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನವಿಕೃತ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಹಾಗೂ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎನ್‌ರೋಲ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಆದ ನವಿಕೃತ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ **5054 ಮತ್ತು ವಿಶೇಷ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ** ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಖರೀದಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಕಾನೂನು ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ 2000 ಹಾಗೂ **Standard Tender Document** ನ **KW- I, III** ರ ತತ್ಸಂಬಂಧ ಕಾಲಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾದ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಆದೇಶಗಳನ್ವಯ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತೆ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ-ಆಡಳಿತ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿದಂತೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನುಳಿದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಖಚಿತಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. **ಒಟ್ಟು 2 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು.**

(1) ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಶೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್-ಬಿಗಳನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು Technical Bid ನ್ನು ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ತುಂಬಿ ಮರಳಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.12.2022 ರಿಂದ 26.12.2022 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 16.30 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ** (2) ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ Technical Bid ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.12.2022, ಸಂಜೆ 16.31 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ** (3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ನಂತರದಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರು,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ

DIPR/KWR/MCA/723/22-23 dt. 15.12.22

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
K.N.N.L Ltd,. SLIS, Divn. No. 1, Mundargi,
Gadag Dist. Ph No. 08371-262174,

1) Ref No. KNNL/EE/SLIS/MDG/2022-23/1355 Date : 12.12.2022
2) Ref No.KNNL/EE/SLIS/MDG/2022-23/1356 Date: 12.12.2022
3) Ref No. KNNL/EE/SLIS/MDG/2022-23/1357 Date: 12.12.2022
4) Ref No. KNNL/EE/SLIS/MDG/ALWND/2022-23/1358 Date: 12.12.2022
5) Ref No. KNNL/EE/SLIS/MDG/ALWND/2022-23/1359 Date: 12.12.2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(ONLY THROUGH "*e-Procurement*" SYSTEM)

Tenders have been invited for works of Koppal Contituency coming under jurisdiction of Singatalur Lift Irrigation Project Division No 1., Mundaragi vide ref (1) (Indent No 35057), ref (2) (Indent No 35058), ref (3) (Indent No 35059), ref (4) (Indent No 35081) and ref (5) (Indent No 35082). Bids have to be submitted through "e-Procurement" Portal only . Details like name of work, Amount put to tender, EMD and other terms and conditions etc., can be had from the office of Executive Engineer, KNNL, Singatalur Lift Irrigation Scheme Division No.,1 Mundaragi during office hours. Tender documents can be downloaded from "*eproc.karnataka.gov.in*" website from **15.12.2022** onwards and last date of submisison of bids is **26.12.2022**. Incomplete tender documents and conditional tenders are liable to be rejected. The officer competent to accept the tender shall have the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KNNL, SLIS, Division No-1, Mundaragi
DIPR/Gadag/MCA/506/2022-23 **Dist : Gadag**

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, KBJNL,
Forest Division, Almatti-586201. Tq:B.Bagewadi.
Dt: Vijayapur. Phone:08426-281410
NO.KBJNL/DCF/BUD/DPT-/L.S Progr/e-tender/2022-23/890 dated: 15-12-2022

SHORT TERM RE TENDER NOTIFICATION
(through e-procurement)

Ref: This Office tender Notification No.KBJNL/DCF/BUD/DTP/L.S/Tender/2022-23/681 dated 01.10.2022

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL Bangalore, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, KBJNL, Forest Division Almatti invites tender on Percentage basis from the eligible bidders for the 02 work as detailed in table below. The tenderers are required to up load two separate covers one containing technical bid with details as mentioned under instructions to the tenderears to the tenderers vide para-1.1 and other cover containing financial bid of the tender wich will be opened only if he tenderar is found to be qualified to execute the tendered work vide para-2

1) Table shoving the tender dates and timings

Calendar of events

Sl.No	Details	2nd Call Tender Date
1	Publishing tender date	15.12.2022 at 5.00 PM
2	Pre bid Meeting	20.12.2022 at 11.00 AM
3	Last Date for receiving the tender bids	23.12.2022 at 05.00 PM
4	Opening Technical bids	27.12.2022 at 11.00 AM
5	Opening Financial bids	30.12.2022 at 11.00 AM

Note: A pre-bid review meeting will be conveyed on Dated 20.12.2022 at 11.00 AM in the Officer of Deputy Conservator of Forests, KBJNL Forest Division, Almatti, the Contractor shall submitt querries if any in Writing to the undersigned office Dated 19.12.2022 at 5.00 PM

Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forests,
KBJNL, Forest Division, Almatti

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/674/ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022-23

ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಾರಾಗೃಹ ಮೈಸೂರು

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನೋಟೀಸ್

2023-24 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಾರಾಗೃಹ ಮೈಸೂರು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ Telecom Tower and other related passive infrastructure for Telecom requirement ನ ಇ-ದರಖಾಸ್ತು ಸಂ: DP/MYS/TOWER/2023-24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.12.2022 ರ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರು, ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಾರಾಗೃಹ, ಮೈಸೂರು

DIPR/DDMYS/MCA/779/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
RDW&S DEPARTMENT, COURT ROAD,
CHAMARAJANAGAR DIVISION, CHAMARAJANAGAR
E-Mail : eerdwsd.chn@gmail.com Office And EE: 08226-226054

E-Procurement Tender Notification No.13/2022-23, Dated : 09.12.2022

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Dept. Chamarajanagara Division, Chamarajanagar Invites for the **OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF MULTI VILLAGE WATER SCHEME FOR PROVIDING WATER SUPPLY TO 131 VILLAGES AND ENROUTE 32 VILLAGES IN GUNDULUPET TALUK OF CHAMRAJA NAGAR DISTRICT (CALL-2).** for Eligible Class-II & above General Category Contractros having (Civil Licence PWD/PRED) are required to submit through E-Procurement portal **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** The Notification includes **OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF MULTI VILLAGE WATER SCHEME,** Estimated amount put to tender of Cost **Rs.362.62** Lakhs. Tenders are invited through E-procurement Portal Only. All rights reserved with Executive Engineer to accept or reject the tender notification. Date and time of publication of Tender - 09.12.2022 onwards. Last date of submission of bids - 20.12.2022 @ 17.00 hrs, Pre Bid meeting to be held on 15.12.2022 @11.00 hrs Venue: Office of Superintendent Engineer, RDW&SD Circle, Mysore-570023 or through **E-Mail:eerdwsd.chn@gmail.com.** Time & Date of Opening of Technical Bids 22.12.2022 @ 11.00 hrs and Financial Bid-After Successful completion of Technical Bid.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
RDW&S Department, Chamarajanagar Division,
Chamarajanagar
DIPR:CHANAGAR:458:2022-23

ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ನಂ.2 ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ವಿಭಾಗ,
1ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಲೋ.ಇ. ಪೂರಕ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ವೃತ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.
ದೂ.: 080-22122856 ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **www.kpwd.gov.in**

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 34/2022-23 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 15-12-2022

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ನಂ.2 ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರುರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ-2000ರನ್ವಯ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-1, 2 & 4ರ ನಿಯಮಗಳಂತೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ (**http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**) ಪಿಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಂದ ಒಂದು ಲಕೋಟೆ / ಎರಡು ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. **ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಬೆಲೆಯನ್ನು ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.**

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವರ್ಕ್ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಇಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಮೊತ್ತ	ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ
1	KPWD/2022-23/BD/WORK_INDENT159836	7,22,301/-	9,100/-	ಎಸ್‌ಸಿ
2	KPWD/2022-23/BD/WORK_INDENT159254	22,27,767.08	25,000/-	ಎಸ್‌ಸಿ
3	KPWD/2022-23/BD/WORK_INDENT156717	8,05,348/-	20,200/-	ಇತರೆ
4	KPWD/2022-23/BD/WORK_INDENT156069	20,59,005/-	41,200/-	ಇತರೆ
5	KPWD/2022-23/BD/WORK_INDENT157352	141,09,750/-	2,11,700/-	–
6	KPWD/2022-23/BD/WORK_INDENT162435	50,53,176/-	1,26,350/-	–

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸಲು ನಿಗದಿಗೊಳಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿ) : 2 ತಿಂಗಳು (ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. 1 ರಿಂದ 4) ಮತ್ತು 5 (1/2) ತಿಂಗಳು (ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. 5) ಮತ್ತು 5 ತಿಂಗಳು (ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. 6). **ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ :** 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು.

(1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **17.12.2022 ರಿಂದ 26.12.2022 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. (2)** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **26.12.2022 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. **(3)** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **28.12.2022 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಕ್ಕೆ** ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ನಂ. 2ನೇ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/3566/ಶ್ರೇಷ್ಠ/2022-23

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Joint Commissioner (South), Mahanagara Palike
Commercial Complex Building, 2nd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru.

No: JC(S)R.D/Nulm/PR/232/2022-23 **Date: 14-12-2022**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Short term tenders are invited from eligible registered and interested Non-Government Organizations in accordance with Rules 1999 and 2000 of Transparency Act for maintenance of Shelter for Shelterless People of five (5) Shelters under Day-Nulm Scheme for the year 2022-23 in the limits of South Zone of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike.

(Standard Tender Document - KW-1)

Sl. No.	Particulars of Programme	Tender Amount (Rs. in Laksh)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
1	BBMP Building, 2nd Cross, Maruthinagar, Hampinagar, Ward - 133, Bengaluru - 33.	8.30	16,600/-
2	BBMP Building, J.P. Nagar, Marenahallipalya, Ward - 177, Bengaluru - 78.	8.03	16,060/-
3	Usman Khan Road, Kumbaragundi Ashraya Centre-01, Bengaluru - 02.	9.66	19,320/-
4	Usman Khan Road, Kumbaragundi Ashraya Centre-02, Bengaluru - 02.	9.66	19,320/-
5	Usman Khan Road, Kumbaragundi Ashraya Centre-03, Bengaluru-02. (Women Centre).	9.66	19,320/-

Calendar of Events: **1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 17-12-2022. 2)** Last Date for Submission of Tenders: **26-12-2022 upto 3.30 PM. 3)** Date of Opening of Bid of Technical Proposal: **28-12-2022 at 4.00 PM.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Joint Commissioner (South), BBMP.

PAY DEVELOPMENT CHARGES, HELP TO DEVELOP BENGALURU

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE, JEWARGI
Akandeshwara Ganj, Vijayapura Cross, Jevargi, D: Kalaburagi – 585 310

Sl. No.: AMD/APMC/J/Development/400/2022-23 Date: 15.12.2022

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender is invited in two cover system through e-procurement website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 and as per related order, circular issued by the Government and Standard Tender Documents KW – 3/KW – 2 from eligible Contractors for 4 nos. works in the Main Market Yard of the Committee approved under Annual Action Plan for the year of 2022-23.

1) Date of pre-bid meeting and clarifications to objections : **28.12.2022 at 12.30 PM.** 2) Last date for receipt of filled Tender: **05.01.2023 up to 4.00 PM.** 3) Date of opening the Technical Bid: **06.01.2023 at 4.30 PM.** 5) Date of opening the Financial Bid: will be informed in the later days.

Names of work: 1) Construction of Administrative Building, 2) Construction of Small Shops from Sl. No. 01 to 10 adjacent to National Highway, 3) Construction of Small Shops from Sl. No. 11 to 19 adjacent to National Highway, 4) Construction of 6 Nos. Small Shops next to old godowns of Main Entrance, 5) Amount put to Tender: Min. **Rs. 34,08,075/-, Max. Rs. 92,14,999/-,** 6) E.M.D. Amount: Min. Rs. 68,162/- Max. Rs. 1,84,300/- 7) Period for works: 9 Months for works of Sl. No. 1, 5 Months and 15 days for works of Sl. No. 2 to 4 (Excluding Rainy Season), 8) Eligibility of Contractors: Contractors registered in PWD as per KW-3 Document for works of 1 to 3 and As per KW-2 Document for works of 4.

Tender processing fee is as per e-portal norms and Terms and conditions of the Tender are in e-portal. Further information can be obtained from the Office on other than holidays during office hours or from https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Secretary **Sd/- Administrative Officer**
Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Jewargi **Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Jewargi**
DIPR/Kalaburagi/963/MC&A/2022-23

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
VIJAYANAGAR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, CANTONMENT, BALLARI-583 104
Telephones: Director No.8147796529, CAO No.8147796526 & PA No.8147796539
e-mail :directorvimsbelllary@gmail.com
website: https://vims.karnataka.gov.in

No.VIMS/SUP/TEND/10/2022-23/Call-2 DATE: 15/12/2022.

RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Tenders are re-invited from the eligible Bidders for **Providing Man Power for maintenance of Cleaning & Sanitation Services, Plumbers & Drivers Services** to combined group of College & Hospitals of VIMS, Ballari for a period of 07 Months and extendable for 03 Months period in Two Bid System as per KTPP Act 1999-2000 through e-procurement portal **website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** of Government of Karnataka. The last date for submission of Tenders will be **31/12/2022 @ 5.00 PM** interested Tenderers are requested to submit Tenders. Further details can be obtained at above website and also at **https://vims.karnataka.gov.in.** The total approximate cost of Tender is **Rs.183.00 Lakhs.**

Sd/- Director, VIMS, Bellary.
DIPR/Ballari/718/MCA/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(PUBLIC WORKS, DEPT.)

No. PWD/BGM/TND/TA/AE/2022-23/6920 Date: 15.12.2022

: ITEM RATE TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-PROCUREMENT):-

The Executive Engineer, PWD Belagavi Division Belagavi invites item rate tenders from the eligible contractors registered in E-procurement portal in Public Works Department under KW- 1,2,3 & 4 Standard tender documents for a total of 58 works under 3054-MDR Maitenance, 8443-Deposit works, 5054-SH Impts Roads, and 5054- MDR Impts with maximum & minimum tender amounts of Rs. 188.32 Lakhs & Rs. 7.56 Lakhs respectively and. maximum & minimum EMD amounts of Rs. 282500/- & 19,000/- respectively. Part-1:Tender receipt Date is on 23-12-2022 upto 4.30 PM and Tender Opening Date is on 24-12-2022 after 4.45 PM, Part-2:Tender receipt Date is on 29-12-2022 upto 4.30 PM and Tender Opening Date is on 30-12-2022 after 4.45 PM , Part-3:Tender receipt Date is on 23-12-2022 upto 4.30 PM and Technical Bid Opening Date is on 24-12-2022 after 4.45 PM and Part-4:Tender receipt Date is on 29-12-2022 upto 4.30 PM and Technical Bid Opening Date is on 30-12-2022 after 4.45 PM , For more information contact the office of the undersigned and www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in after 15-12-2022.

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
Public Works Department, Belagavi Division Belagavi
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1387/MCA/2022-23

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that our client proposes to purchase the Schedule Property from **Sri. Vishnumurthy. U. M, Sri. U. M. Manjunath** both residing at No.41, 10th Main, 26th Cross, Banashankari II Stage, Bidarahalli, Bangalore - 560 070 AND **Smt. Rajeshwari,** C/o Sri. T. Raveendra residing at 97, III Main Road, Pavaman apura, Lingadhiranahalli, Banashankari 6th Stage, Thalagattapura, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore-560062 (all children and legal heirs of Late. U. R. Madhavarao).

Any person (s) / institution, having any claim over the schedule property may lodge his / her / their objections of claims in writing with all supporting documentary evidences with regard to such claims with the undersigned within 15 days hereof, failing which, our client will proceed to complete the process of purchase. Any objections/ claims received thereafter will not be entertained / binding on our client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Residential building property bearing BDA no.41, PID no.56-71-41, at 10th Main Road, Banashankari II Stage Extension, in BBMP ward no.56, Bangalore admeasuring East to West : 55 ft., and North to South : 35 ft., in all measuring 179.42 Sq. Mtrs., and bounded as follows :

On the East by : Road
West by : Site no.44
North by : Site no.42
South by : House in site no.40

C.S.Vishwanath & Co.,
Advocates,
Nos.519 & 520, 3rd Floor, Prabhat Complex, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.
Bangalore Date: 16/12/2022

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Executive Engineer, K.R.Sagara Division, K.R.Sagara

Tender notification No: 18/ 2022-23 Dated: 09-12-2022

The Executive Engineer, K.R.Sagara Division, K.R.Sagara, Srirangapatna Taluk, Mandya Dist. on behalf of the Managing Director CNNL Mysore has invited tender through e-procurement **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** for the work **Selection of Agency for collection of USER FEE (Entry fee to Brindavan Gardens with Camera Fee from Visitors, Parking fee & Downstream Bridge Toll) through the collecting agency** any further information or clarification for the above said work including last date, opening date, Pre-bid meeting date, EMD, etc., can be obtained from above mentioned office during the office hours & from the above said website.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, K.R. Sagara Division, Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Limited, K.R.Sagara.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ನಂ.5, ಭದ್ರಾ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ. ಫೋ: 08192-264669
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: **eebcddvg@yahoo.co.in**

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ:- **No: EE/ KNNL/ BCD-5/DVG/PB-6/34522CALL-3/2022-23 /2452 Dated: 12.12.2022**

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ. ನಂ.5 ಭದ್ರಾ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ರವರು, ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿತ ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ 4701 ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕೇಕಡಾವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ (http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in) ಮುಖಾಂತರವೇ **ದಿ: 13.12.2022 ರಿಂದ 20.12.2022** ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಪ್ರಿ ಬಿಡ್ / ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.12.2022 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 12.00** ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.12.2022 ರಂದು** ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 **ಘಂಟೆ** ಒಟ್ಟು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 1 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಮೊತ್ತ – **ರೂ.500.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು. RECTIFICATION OF SINKED PORTION OF BHARAMASAGARA DODDAKERE TANK BUND IN CHITRADURGA TALUK, CHITRADURGA DISTRICT. (KNNL/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT34522/call-3)** ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ, ಅಂಗೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಅಥವಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/681/ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022-23

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಕನೀನಿನಿ ನಂ.5 ಭದ್ರಾ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
**(District Urban Development Cell

INBRIEF

Power disruption in city from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. today

There will be no power supply in the following areas on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in view of carrying out maintenace works.

According to a release from Bescom, Koramangala Division, the affected areas are: 5th Block Industrial Area, Koramangala, Madiwala, Venkateshwara Layout, Chikkadugodi, Jogi Colony St. John Staff Quarters,Adugodi, 7th and 8th Blocks, Adugodi Main Road, Maruthinagara, B.G. Road, KHB Colony, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th blocks of Koramangala, Bhuvanappa Layout, Cauvery Layoutand surrounding areas.

Honorary achievement awards announced

The Lambani Samskruthi Bhasha Academy has announced the 2022-23 honorary lifetime achievement awards in different art forms.

According to a release, the following personalities have been selected for the lifetime achievement awards for 2022: Prof. M. Shankuntala Hanumanthappa, Chikkamagaluru. Dr. P.K. Khandoba, Bagalkot, B. Hiranayaka, Davangere, Prof. D.B. Nayak, Kalaburagi, and Gangappa Kemappa Lamani, Belagavi.

The achievers in different art forms for 2022 are: Gulab Sing Megu Pattar, Vijayapura - Jewellery Art, Kotresh Nayka, Vijayanagar - Playing the board, Umna Nayka - Sarangi Kathana song and Gunda Chandra Nayka - Kathana geethe, both from Davangere. Shantabai Kashyanayka, District - embroidery. Savithri Mantesha Lamani, Gadag, folk song; Sopanrav Rupla, Bidar for Holi song, Puttibhai Mityanayka, Chitradurga, Valanga Geethe, Devalappa Tekappa Lamani, Haveri, Do Do Nangara Geethe, and Manjunath Chandragiri Buvanavara, Koppal, religious profession.

Techie ends life over trivial row with husband

The Hindu Bureau
BANGALURU

Police have taken up the case and are investigating to ascertain the reason behind suicide

A 26-year-old software engineer ended life over a trivial row with her husband in Basaveshwara Nagar on Thursday.

The deceased Swathi, married to Damodar, resident of Vrushabhavati nagar two years ago. Damodar worked as manager at a mobile company. On Thursday, Swathi had ordered lunch online while at office, and asked Damodar to come and have lunch. But, due to workload, he did not go.

Allegedly, depressed over this Swathi returned home and locked herself in room before hanging.

The incident came to light when Damodar returned and tried to open and later found her dead.

Based on the complaint by Ravi Kumar, father of swathi, the Basaveshwara Nagar police have taken up the case and are investigating to ascertain the reason behind suicide.

(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph.: 104 for help)

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, DEC. 17		
RISE	06:34	SET 17:57
RISE	00:40	SET 13:03
SUNDAY, DEC. 18		
RISE	06:35	SET 17:57
RISE	01:28	SET 13:41
MONDAY, DEC. 19		
RISE	06:35	SET 17:58
RISE	02:18	SET 14:20

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	30	18
Bengaluru	29	15

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be comfortable but humid. Night will be cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be comfortable but humid. Night will be cool.

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THE HINDU
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Almost certain that civic polls will be held only after Assembly elections

The Supreme Court on Thursday gave Karnataka government time till March 31 to finalise and notify the reservation roster for the newly delimited 243 wards in BBMP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

It is now almost certain that civic polls in Bengaluru will be held only after the Assembly elections scheduled for May 2023. The previous Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) council's term (2015-2020) ended in September 2020, and it will almost be three years before the next council will be elected, multiple sources in the government said.

Earlier, the High Court of Karnataka had set a December 31 deadline for the elections to be held. FILE PHOTO

Two orders

The Supreme Court on Thursday gave Karnataka government time till March 31 to finalise and notify the reservation roster for the newly delimited 243 wards in BBMP.

Earlier, the High Court of Karnataka had set a December 31 deadline for the elections to be held.

The State government had sought more time as work of the Justice Bhaktavatsala Committee formed to study and recommend OBC reservation in local bodies in lieu with the Supreme Court order was still under way.

Recently, Karnataka High Court had also extended the deadline for delimitation of wards in taluk and zilla panchayats till January 31, 2023, putting a question mark over those polls as well being held before the Assembly polls.

With these two orders, elections to local bodies in the State will likely be held only after the Assembly polls, sources said.

Dr. B. Basavaraju, State Election Commissioner, Karnataka, who had approached the Supreme Court seeking directions to the State government to hold civic polls immediately, said Thursday's apex court order meant civic polls in the city can be held only after March 31. "By then we expect the processes for the Assembly elections to have begun. Elections to local bodies are usually not held during Assembly polls. We will have to see how the time table of the Assembly elections pan out and decide when to hold the civic polls," he told *The Hindu*.

All MLAs were opposed

MLAs' cutting across party lines have been using every trick in the book to push elections to local bodies both in Bengaluru and elsewhere, to after Assembly polls to be held in May 2023.

"Holding civic polls now will mean diversion of energy, funds and will only create dissidence with a large pool of ticket aspirants in all parties. The polls should have been held on time in 2020, but now that it has been pushed indiscriminately for various reasons, holding it so close before assembly polls makes no sense," said a city MLA from BJP.

BBMP shuts all mobile Indira Canteens

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has shut down all mobile Indira Canteens in the city citing lack of patronage.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath on Friday said that all the mobile canteens have been closed since they were not seeing many people. "We did not have any intention to shut down mobile canteens, however, we are not seeing many people using them. Apart from mobile Indian canteens, all other canteens are working," said Mr. Tushar Giri Nath.

Around 15 mobile Indira Canteens were working in the city, according to BBMP officials.

A senior Palike official said that the main reason to shut mobile canteens is that service provider agencies are not happy with the payment.

"Agencies supplying the mobile canteens have started noticing losses due to transportation and low people turn out. The agencies have been complaining about low payment given to them to run mobile canteens," official added.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath on Friday said that all the mobile canteens have been closed since many people were not using them. FILE PHOTO

There are 174 Indira Canteens and 15 mobile canteens serving lakhs of citizens, mostly belonging to lower socio-economic groups who depend on the canteens for breakfast, lunch and dinner, which are made available at a subsidised cost in the city. Currently, three agencies – Chef Talk, Rewards, and Adamya Chetana are providing food to the Indira Canteens.

Lack of budgetary allocation

After 101 canteens were initially opened in 2017, their popularity led to the expansion of the scheme to all the 198 wards. Currently, Indira Canteens are providing breakfast at ₹5 and lunch and dinner at ₹10.

Most canteens in the city are suffering due to what the Opposition alleges the lack of interest by the present BJP government to fund the canteen.

In 2017-18 and 2018-2019, the then government allocated ₹100 crore and ₹145 crore respectively, but after the BJP government took over, in the past two years, no funds were allocated for the scheme. Hence, the civic body had to allot funds to the canteens from its own budget.

> The main reason to shut mobile canteens is that service provider agencies are not happy with the payment.
> **SENIOR OFFICIAL**
> BBMP

The BBMP had earmarked ₹60 crore in the 2022-23 Budget for running the Indira Canteens.

While no decision has been taken to cease the canteen scheme as of now, the contractors said that they had not been paid for months.

Politics around canteen

Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah who started the Indira Canteens during his regime to feed the urban poor had earlier in a tweet alleged that the BJP government is planning to close canteens.

Last month, Karnataka Congress President D.K. Shivakumar also alleged that the government is closing 40 canteens and asked his party workers to stage protests in front such closed canteens.

Time given to submit petitions seeking compensation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the directions of the HC of Karnataka, the Government of Karnataka had appointed Mohammed Mohiddin Patil, Retired District and Sessions Judge as Mahadayi Law Commissioner to estimate the loss and damage caused to public and private properties across the jurisdiction of the State.

According to a release, in the wake of the bandh and strike of Mahadayi issues, time has been given to submit petitions seeking compensation to the public and private properties to the office of Mohammed Mohiddin Patil, The Mahadayi Claims Commissioner, Prachi Shoppe building, Dharwad, in person or through email to mahadayicc22@gmail.com.

Ballot units for 2023 polls arrive in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ahead of the Assembly polls in 2023, electronic voting machines (EVMs) have started arriving in the State. On Friday, the Bengaluru district administration received 7,465 ballot units and 5,558 controlling units as part of the first consignment from ECIL, Hyderabad, on the instructions from the Election Commission of India.

The consignments came in 11 trucks under security from the Karnataka police and were unloaded in Kandaya Bhavan here. Sources said that CCTV cameras have been installed around the strong room in Kandaya Bhavan and 24/7 police security has been provided. According to in-charge Deputy Commissioner Sangappa, the election-related equipment will remain in the strong room till further instructions from the ECI.

Meanwhile, a press release from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer stated that the ECI has directed all district election officers to take adequate steps to ensure that any potential capture of data by any private agency by way of house-to-house survey and use of misleading identity cards were curbed. Any attempt of voter data collection either by a private entity or otherwise and any authentication/NoC by DEOs/EROs to any private entity is strictly prohibited, it said.

12 officials appointed to check draft voters' list

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has appointed 12 KAS officers to check the draft voters' lists of Shivajinagar, Chickpet, and Mahadevapura Assembly constituencies after the alleged voter data theft case.

The ECI had ordered a cross verification of the rolls in the three segments, after forged ID cards claiming to be booth level officers were found with representatives of Chilume Educational Cultural and Rural Development Trust tasked with Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation campaign.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said, "The process of preparing the voters' draft list in these three constituencies is going on. I have instructed officials to conduct weekly meetings with political parties with regard to objections and claims regarding the list. Mr. Tushar, who is also the district election officer, went door-to-door at Mahadevapura segment on Friday to check the voters' list where modification is going on.

Spotlight
Read longform articles from our regional editions

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BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari, Bengaluru - 560070.
No: EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/AE-1/41/2022-23 Dated: 14-12-2022
E-PROCUREMENT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System)
Tenders are invited through e-Procurement by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, For 5054 Grants Works. The work details can be obtained from the e-Procurement Website. The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted **on or before 30-12-2022 upto 4.00 PM.** Further details can be obtained from Website at **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.
DIPR/CP/3559/Adverto/2022-23
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Bangalore Urban Dist, Bengaluru.

RURAL DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Bangalore Rural, Beerasandra, Devanahalli Taluk. E-mail: eerdwsd.bngr1@gmail.com Phone: 080-29787463 (M) 9448367736
ಸಂ: ಕಾಪಾಳ/ಗ್ರಾ.ಕು.ನೀ.ಸ್ಯೆರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ/ಬೆಂ.ಗ್ರಾ/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/22–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14.12.2022
SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO. 26/2022-23/1938 Date: 14.12.2022
(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)
Tenders are invited on behalf of Governer of Karnataka according to KTTP Act 2000 through E-procurement Portal for the works under **2021-22 2215 H/A under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to Provide FHTCs to House Holds in Bangalore Rural District** (Standard Tender Document KW-1, KW-2, KW-3 & KW-4) Application & EMD Payment to be done through E-Procurement Portal.
General Conditions: (1) Contractor has to upload Document in online only (2) All qualifying documents has to be attached in online.
(1) Tender Schedule can be downloaded from website: **15.12.2022 after 4.00 PM (2)** Last date for tender uploading: **22.12.2022 Upto 5.30 PM (3)** Date of opening of Tender / Technical Bid: **23.12.2022 at 05.35 PM. (4)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **26.12.2022 at 11.00 AM.**
More details can be taken from the office of the undersigned and also through **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** by clicking List of Tenders which will link to all Dept. works list.
DIPR/CP/3554/AAA/2022-23
Sd/- Executive Engineer RDW&S Division, Bangalore Rural.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
M.I & G.W.D. DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR
No.EE/MID/VJP/AE-1,2,4/4702,2702/TND/2022-23/3159 Date: 14.12.2022
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department, Division Vijaypur invites work tenders through "E-Procurement" from eligible contractor on item rate Tender for following works as per KTPP Act-2000 and latest amendments.
NON-NBD Works:- Total 22 Works, Estimated Cost **Rs.1941.50 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above work are Three (3) to Nine (9) Months including monsoon.**
TSP Work:- Total 2 Works/Package Works, Estimated Cost **Rs.25.80 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above work is Three (3) Months including monsoon.**
M&R Work:- Total 01 Work, Estimated Cost **Rs.18.70 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above work is Three (3) Months including monsoon.**
Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka E-Procurement website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam under login for Contractors from **17.12.2022.** Tenders may be submitted on electronically in E-Procurement portal up to **16-00hrs.** on **31.12.2022.** Interested contractors information regarding works may be obtained from this office (Ph.No.08352-277188) or e-Procurement helpdesk (Ph.No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227) upto **17.30hrs.** on **30.12.2022.** Other details can be seen in the tender documents. Pre-bid meeting will be held on **26.12.2022** for work costing above 1.00Crore in the office of the Executive Engineer, MI&GWDD Division, Vijaypur. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI & GWDD Division, Vijayapur
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/670/ಎಂಸಿಎ/2020–21

PUBLIC NOTICE
This to inform the general public that, **Sri. ASLAM AHMED,** aged about 52 years, Son of Late C.K.M Hyder, Residing at No. 43/3, 5th Main, 5th Cross, Rahmat Nagar, R.T. Nagar, Bengaluru-560032, who is agreement holder of Property bearing Site Number : **95, Khatha No. 284/A/31/1/95, And Property bearing Site Number : 96, Khatha No. 284/A/31/1/96 situated at GEDDALAHALLI VILLAGE, K.R. PURAM HOBLI, BENGALURU EAST TALUK, BENGALURU,** vide agreement dated : 29.07.2017, have lost the Original Agreement dated : 29.07.2017 executed between me and USHA SURESH BABU and Original absolute Sale Deed dated : 07.03.2012 registered as vide document number : HLS-1-02406-2011-12, in Book-1, Stored in C.D. No. HLSD50, registered before the Senior Sub-Registrar, Halasuru, Bengaluru, executed by Sri. MUNISONNE GOWDA & Others in favour of Sri. V. Suresh Babu pertaining to the above property, along with Two sets of Xerox copy of the same Sale Deed, for which my client has filed complaint before Karnataka State Police on 12/12/2022 in Vide Lost repot No. 0411678/2022, all the efforts made by my client to trace out the same proved futile. That in any person/s found the same, please inform and surrender the above document to the undersigned and if any person/s or establishment is having any objections, claims shall be informed to the undersigned within **07 days** from the date of publication.
Sd/- **MEER HASSAN**, B.A., LL.B
Advocates & Notary Public
#96, 11th Cross, Someshwara Nagar, Jayanagar, 1st Block, Bangalore-11
Mob : 9343476675
Place: Bengaluru Date: 15-12-2022

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What does the future hold for world classical chess?

Nakamura, the World No. 1 player in blitz, feels there is going to be less and less interest in the world championship as there is less space for creativity and involves marathon preparation

PHOTO: DEBASISH BHADURI

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Ahead of the football World Cup in Qatar, a picture of Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo playing chess took the internet by storm.

It has gone on to become one of the most viewed photos on the internet, and has been liked 41 million times on Ronaldo's Instagram page alone.

It was shot by internationally acclaimed portrait photographer Annie Leibovitz for the ad campaign of French luxury fashion house Louis Vuitton. The shot has come out beautifully, no doubt.

It turned out the position in that photograph was actually from a game between two great rivals in today's chess.

World champion Magnus Carlsen and Hikaru Nakamura played that game in the third round of the Norway Chess in 2017. Carlsen, with his characteristic sense of humour, tweeted: 'Second greatest rivalry of our time mimicking the greatest.'

> I always liked playing blitz chess. I think it has to to do with my attitude and approach to the game
> NAKAMURA

Carlsen is a five-time World champion and the World No. 1 since 2011. He is also the World No. 1 in rapid chess.

Hikaru Nakamura, however, is the World No.1 in blitz chess. He is also the reigning World champion in Chess 960 (Fischer Random), which encourages the creative - and not theoretical - side of a player.

Best blitz player

Grandmaster Pravin Thipsay believes the American has been the world's best blitz player over the last few years. "Carlsen is a wonderful player across formats no doubt, but if you look at the consistency with which Nakamura has played in blitz over the last six or seven years, you could find that he has been the best," Thipsay says.

Nakamura wasn't quite at his best though at the Tata Steel Chess India in Kolkata a fortnight ago. He could finish only runner-up, to Arjun Erigaisi, in the blitz section.

When *The Hindu* catches up with Nakamura shortly after the closing ceremony, he admits he isn't happy with the quality of his games. A month before coming to India, he had won the World Chess 960 championship at Reykjavik, Iceland.

He says he enjoyed playing in the tournament. He had beaten Ian Nepomniachtchi in the final. He rates the Russian as one of the three toughest rivals over the years in blitz chess, as well.

"Magnus obviously and Vishy Anand, though he is past his prime," he says. "Even playing him in the late 2010s, I found him very formidable."

'Chess I grew up with'

He says he has always liked playing blitz chess. "I think it has got to do with my attitude and the approach to the game," he says.

"The players are always on their own much quicker. From the start you have to make your decisions in a fairly timely manner. There is more space for intuition and making decisions than pure calculation and opening theory. That is the kind of chess I grew up with; it didn't rely heavily on opening preparation. And that is also the reason I enjoy playing Chess 960 a lot. In it, the best player wins the game."

As for the future of the classical World chess championship, he isn't very optimistic. He points out some of the previous World title matches had produced too many draws. In Carlsen's match against Sergey Karjakin in 2016, only two of the 12 games produced decisive results. Two years later, against Fabiano Caruana (2018), all the 12 games were drawn. Thus in both the matches, rapid games had to be played to determine the World champion.

"I feel there is going to be less and less interest in the classical World championship," Nakamura says. "(After all those draws in the matches against Karjakin and Nakamura), in the match against Nepomniachtchi last year, Carlsen won the sixth game and the floodgates were opened. The appetite for those sorts of matches is not going to be there in the future. I see rapid and blitz games becoming more and more popular."

What does he think of Carlsen's decision not to defend his World title? (After dethroning Anand in Chennai in 2013, the Norwegian went on to defend it in all the four World championship matches since).

Nakamura thinks Carlsen took that decision because he did not enjoy preparing for those matches. Before the World title matches, both the players usually spend a huge amount of time on the opening preparation along with their 'seconds' (sparring partners).

"The windows for getting a game of chess where the players are on their own and creative in the opening phase are very hard to reach anymore," says Nakamura. "The fact is that it is very difficult to play creative chess. That is the overriding issue for him."

Carlsen had advocated some other format to determine the World champion. Nakamura feels there is no easy solution.

"Maybe FIDE can change the format somehow, but with the world rapid and blitz championship being held, I don't know what they could do," he says. "Personally I won't enjoy playing a long World title match myself. Historically, we have had World championship matches and one of the greatest things about chess is its history. Maybe after the World title match between Nepomniachtchi and Ding Liren things will change, but I am fairly pessimistic. Things are probably going to remain the same."

Looking back at his performance in Kolkata, he says he was glad that he was at least moving in the right direction with the World rapid and blitz championship coming up. "Here Wesley So blundered against me and I won, while I blundered against Arjun and I lost," he says. "I hope to do better at the World rapid and blitz championship at the end of this month (in Kazakhstan)."

After the day's play in Kolkata, Nakamura had found time to stream. He is hugely popular on Twitch and YouTube with some 1.5 million followers on both platforms.

Chess, in fact, is doing fabulously well on social media. It was the only sport that actually grew during the lockdown forced upon the world by the pandemic. There are several chess streamers around with massive following. Does he watch any of them?

"Not really," says Nakamura. "I never watch chess streams. But I watch streamers who are very successful in other categories. I observe what they do and employ some of their strategies for my streams on chess.

I find it very useful."

As for that picture of Messi and Ronaldo, Nakamura's reaction was short. "I was wondering why this chess position looked familiar!" he tweeted.

And what happened in that game between Nakamura and Carlsen? It ended in a draw.

> My toughest rivals are Ian Nepomniachtchi, Carlsen and Viswanathan Anand. Even playing Vishy in the late 2010, I found him very formidable

GETTY IMAGES

GAME THEORY

Riding the chess boom

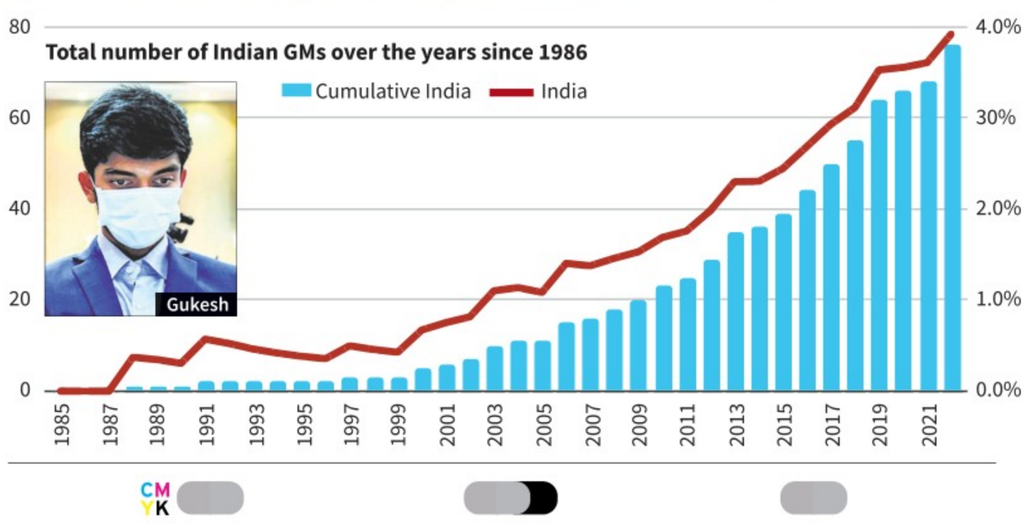
With Aditya Mittal becoming India's 77th Grandmaster, the country has produced close to 4% of the total number of GMs in the world. India's share of GMs has gone up exponentially in the last decade or so. This is remarkable considering India's first GM Viswanathan Anand got his final norms only in 1987 and it took 13 years for India to register a total of just five GMs - Dibyendu Barua, Pravin Thipsay, Abhijit Kunte and K. Sasikiran - apart from the five-time World Champion

- In 2022, India registered a total of 9 new Grandmasters (including Mittal), a feat matched only once before - in the year 2019. In 2013 and 2017, there were six new Grandmasters registered

5 India now has five Grandmasters who have a ELO rating above 2700 (the super GM club)

2 Koneru Humpy and D. Harika remain the only two Indian female Grandmasters

5 Five of the top 20 juniors in the world belong to India: D. Gukesh (aged 16), Arjun Erigaisi (19), R. Praggnanandhaa (17), Nihal Sarin (18) and Raunak Sadhwani (16)



PICTURE THIS

HARRY TRUMP/GETTY IMAGES

Capturing hearts

Morocco has been the standout-performer in the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar. Not tipped to reach the knock-outs as it was grouped with the last edition's finalist Croatia, semifinalist Belgium and darkhorse Canada, the Atlas Lions surprised one and all. Overcoming all hurdles, the African nation delivered a performance that would stand the test of time. It entered the round-of-16 for the second time and by reaching the semifinals, it became the first African nation to do so in the history of World Cup.

In the group matches, it drew with Croatia 0-0, defeated Belgium 2-0, and then edged out Canada 2-1 to top Group-F. What it did in the round of 16 was even more special. It knocked out former World champion Spain on penalties while pipping Portugal in the quarterfinals. In the last-four clash against reigning World champion France, Morocco didn't succumb easily, battling till the final whistle. It exited the tournament with its head held high.

Fans gave their complete support to Morocco, and many spectators from a few Arab nations even adopted them as their second team. Morocco will meet Croatia in the third-place playoff on December 17.

SATURDAY
December 17, 2022

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J BG-BGE

TAC recommends staggering of classes for school students

Staggered timings, to avoid exposure of children to morning chill and cold weather, should be in force all through winter till the rush in outpatient departments of hospitals comes down, says TAC

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Children with fever, and respiratory symptoms like cough, cold, running nose, sore throat, wheezing, and breathing difficulties should not be sent to school by their parents/guardians, and instead they should seek medical consultation, say health experts. FILE PHOTO

To prevent exposure of children to early morning chill and cold weather in the prevailing climatic conditions, Karnataka's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has recommended staggering of classes for students.

"As winter has set in, there will be no respite from cold weather for over a month from now. It is advisable to start classes at 9.30 a.m. for standard 1 to 5 and at 9 a.m. for standard 6 to 10," the TAC has said.

The committee that met on December 14 deliberated on the inclement weather and intermittent rains at its 186th meeting. "The decision about the school timings should be taken at the district/taluk level based on local consideration by the authorities concerned. The staggered timings should be in force all through this winter till the rush in outpatient departments of hospitals comes down. There is no need to close schools," TAC chairman M.K. Sudarshan told *The Hindu* on Friday.

Cyclone impact

TAC members, who noted that the impact of the cyclone Mandous in Karnataka has resulted in intermittent rain, cold breeze and lower temperatures for over a week, referred to the forecast of one more cyclone hitting the Bay of Bengal next week. "In this context, school going children are getting infected with upper respiratory ailments such as fever, cough, cold, running nose, sore throat, wheezing and breathing difficulties," the TAC report stated.

"Although the outpatient departments of health facilities are crowded with children and adults, particularly elderly, the situation is not alarming as hospitalisations are few and deaths are occasional. According to reports from the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Bengaluru, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and Influenza 'A' virus are in circulation and the infection is high in children. Incidentally, the situation of COVID-19 is fairly under good control in the State. Also a sporadic case of Zika virus disease (ZVD) has been reported in a child from Raichur reflecting on the breeding of Aedes mosquito," the TAC's report stated.

Dr. Sudarshan said the staggering of classes will prevent exposure of children to early morning chill and cold breeze. Other classes for older children can go on as scheduled. Children with fever and respiratory symptoms like cough, cold, running nose, sore throat, wheezing, breathing difficulties should not be sent to school by their parents/guardians and instead they should seek medical consultation," he said.

However, children having chronic respiratory ailments such as asthma and are on daily medication can be permitted to attend the classes on submission of medical fitness certificate to the school. "During the daily morning inspection by teachers, any child having fever or respiratory symptoms should be isolated from the rest in a separate room and the parents should be informed to take the child for medical consultation," he said.

Start from 10 a.m. regularly

C.N. Manjunath, member of the State's Clinical Experts Committee, said classes should permanently begin from 10 a.m. for children upto standard 2.

"Children below ten years should have longer sleeping hours compared to adolescents. They are prone to catch infections if exposed to morning chill and cold weather as their immunity levels are low. The government should formulate guidelines and fix school timings from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for classes at least up to standard 2," Dr. Manjunath said.

'Rapid road' project will be evaluated by IISc: BBMP Chief Commissioner

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has not yet finalised the 'rapid road' project and still it is in the evaluation process. We plan to get it evaluated by Indian Institute of Science, said BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said on Friday.

In the 'rapid road' method, pre-cast slabs are prepared, joined, strengthened and then laid. As an experiment, a 375-metre-long stretch has been laid on busy Old Madras Road (OMR).

"It is correct that the rapid road is the fastest constructed road, however, we have to look into all the technical aspects and also to see whether it is cost-effective before proceeding to construct such roads in other parts of the city," he added.

Civic officials said that while white-topping roads takes around 30 days, this pilot road work will only take two to three days. Notably, the 'rapid road' stretch on ORR was opened for traffic after missing several deadlines. The repair work was announced on November 23. The pilot project was supposed to be completed in 3 days, but took 13 days. The road sees a large volume of traffic every days. The project costs more than the regular road projects like white-topping. "The cost of this project is high compared to the white-topping road project – by at least 20% to 25% - since this project requires an additional cost of transporting the concrete slabs to the site from the factory," Mr. Giri Nath had earlier said.

On December 8, CM Basavaraj Bommai had inaugurated the pilot rapid road stretch and he had said the government will consider construction of rapid roads by using pre-cast technology only after examining its quality and cost.

Delivery executive held for strangulating live-in partner

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Parappana Agrahara police on Friday arrested a 24-year-old delivery executive of an e-commerce company for strangulating his live-in partner and made it look like suicide.

The accused had taken the body and admitted her in private hospital on December 7 to create an alibi.

Doctors who examined the body informed the police who rushed to the spot and found marks on the neck. They registered a case of suspicious death and shifted the body to St. Johns for post mortem. It revealed strangulation before hanging following which the police tracked down the accused Prashanth and arrested him.

Probe revealed that Sunitha Deepu, 27, from Andhra Pradesh was in a relationship with Prashanth for four years. Sunitha started pestering him for marriage but Prashanth was not interested and postponing with excuses.

Unable to bear the pressure, Prashant decided to eliminate her.

Further investigations are on.

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Government Jobs
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Indira Gandhi Shahri Rozgar Guarantee Yojna
Employment guarantee of 100 days in urban areas. So far, more than 3.5 lakh job cards issued.

Rajiv Gandhi Rural Olympic Games
World's largest sports event. Approximately 30 lakh people took part. Urban Olympic Games from 26th January 2023. These Sports will be organised every year.

Palanhaar Yojna
Financial assistance of ₹500 to ₹2500 per month to orphans and other children as per eligibility. So far, 6.64 lakh children benefitted.

Rajiv Gandhi Scholarship for Academic Excellence
Every year, the State Government bears education expense of 200 students to study abroad.

Mahatma Gandhi English Medium School
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Mukhya Mantri Nishulk Uniform Vitran Yojna
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Mukhya Mantri Bal Gopal Yojna
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Mukhya Mantri Kisan Mitra Urja Yojna
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THE HINDU

A cultural twist to the interiors

There is a renewed inclination to bring in heritage in the choice of décor, furnishings, the overall language of the space. By **Nandhini Sundar**

DECOR

When it comes to decorating the interiors of a residence, it is customary to lean towards a décor that is classy, yet in keeping with personal inclinations. The elements brought into this space conform to both the functional needs of the space as well as the desire to bring in warmth, cheer with a decorative feel. While many a time, a thematic approach is sought to decorate or veer towards depicting everything in the raw, natural state, what is oft missed is a connection to the cultural roots or context of the space.

In short, most contemporary residences of today miss this vital link with local culture and heritage, with the décor focusing solely on creating a well curated space with elements from across the world or reveal modernist leanings with local contemporary creations. However, with the recent spate of awareness on our cultural roots, thanks to a couple of blockbusters such as *Kantara*, *Ponniyin Selvan*, there appears to be a relook at how an interior is to be shaped.

A renewed inclination to bring in heritage or at least a semblance of it into the interiors has surfaced, with strong leanings perceived in the choice of elements in the décor, the furnishings, the overall language of the space. Be it as a simple lamp or a solitary sculptural piece, a traditional art on the wall, an increasing trend to imbibe them into spaces is perceived, bringing to the fore a revisit of our ancient heritage and the forgotten skills of our traditional craftsmen.

Revisiting the roots

Says Bharathy Harish, Head of Madhurya Creations, an art revival boutique in South Bengaluru, "Home is essentially a reflection of one's personality. Reflecting on what we value, perceive as beautiful aids us to associate with certain values, cultural roots that tend to increase in importance over the years. Invariably there is now a tendency to revisit the roots, make a conscious attempt to usher in elements that serve as a reminder. While it is a responsibility to carry forward the legacy, be part of this heritage, even the smallest element that connects to this heritage in an interior can make an immense difference."

Stating that these elements can be in any form, she points out that even a simple traditional lamp lit in a corner in an alcove can transform the ambience and bring in this cultural connect. "This traditional lamp need not be lit conventionally with oil and cotton wick, it could be with an electrical bulb too, yet the effect is the same." According to her, one has to merely take a peek into the usage patterns of the past and bring in these cultural elements subtly as motifs in furniture, soft furnishings or as standalone pieces of art and craft in interiors.

Even a simple traditional lamp lit in a corner in an alcove can transform the ambience and bring in the cultural connect.

Fusing into the decor

"Traditionally Tanjore paintings were depicted as a deity such as Ganesha, Krishna. The same Tanjore painting can be hosted in a contemporary interior as a peacock, parrot, fused into a coffee table, a door or woven into a mirror frame, feature on a jewellery box. Such fusion is not restricted to Tanjore paintings alone, but can be done with Pichwai paintings where they can be part of the headboard of a cot, a magazine rack or decorate a table in the form of a classy penholder", she elaborates. Bharathy further extends this to weaves too where the "traditional handwoven fabrics, the fabulous block prints, embroidery, mirror work, the Banaras silks, can all be woven into the soft furnishings, each weaving a story around our culture, the artisan, the skills passed down generations." She is quick to point that the options of fusing traditional arts and crafts into the interiors are immense, restricted only by creativity and conceptualisation by the designer. "In whatever forms they are brought in, the heritage, cultural connect, a revisit of the roots becomes amply evident."

A touch of heritage, a swing reminds us of the good old times. MADHURYA CREATIONS

Emotive with colours

Concurring with Bharathy, Architect Milana Maladkar of Vivospace Architects states, "The colours of heritage, culture are vibrant and capture an emotion. The predominance of yellow and red in *Kantara* is a pointer to this. We need to pick up this essence and capture it in the form of a sculpture, an art piece where they are free standing, yet serve as the highlight in the contemporary space. Their presence connects to the deep roots of culture and the context, ushering in warmth, earthiness to the spaces." This cultural connect can also be established using waste wood, naturally available materials to conceptualise the heritage element, where they can feature as lighting, standalone installations, furniture, she adds.

Establishing the link

Architect Prathima Seethur of Wright Inspires opines that the context of contemporary dwellings has altered and so have the lifestyles. "Establishing a strong connect to heritage may not be totally feasible in this context. It is only possible to relive certain nostalgic moments of the past or afford a glimpse of the heritage by infusing it as a specific décor element and not as a functional piece." Thus, an antique carved pillar can be part of a décor connecting to the roots, an ancestral brassware can be a reminder of this heritage, a traditional painting can become a feature wall.

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Work order issued for redeveloping Bengaluru Cantonment station into 'world class terminal'

As per the plan, the redeveloped station will have 216-metre wide fully air-conditioned concourse, segregated arrival and departure points, ground plus five multi-level parking, etc.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The South Western Railway (SWR) has issued work order for redevelopment of Bengaluru Cantonment station into a "world class terminal." Whopping ₹480 crore will be spent for the redevelopment of more than 150-year-old station. The station will be redeveloped in 36 months.

As per the plan, the redeveloped station will have 216-metre wide fully air-conditioned concourse, segregated arrival and departure points, ground plus five multi-level parking, roof plaza over platforms for commercial activities such as retail outlets, food courts, infotainment zone and others. Other amenities include Divyang-friendly station with braille maps, ramps, lifts and subway for the convenience of differently-abled passengers promoting 'ease of access'. There are also plans to provide multi-modal integration with city bus transportation, proposed suburban rail network and others.

Chief PRO of the SWR Aneesh Hegde said that the project is being executed on EPC (Engineering-Procurement-Construction) mode on a 'turnkey' basis under which the single agency is responsible for planning, procurement and execution of all the aspects of the project.

An artist's impression of the renovated Bengaluru Cantonment railway station. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

₹45 crore for remodeling yard

In the first phase, the SWR has already taken up remodeling of the yard to enhance the operational capacity of the station. By the end of February 2023, four additional platforms and three additional lines will be available. The SWR maintains enhanced infrastructure that will help in running more train services from the point and help to decongest KSR Bengaluru station. The remodeling of the yard would cost ₹45 crore.

"The remodelled yard would be integrated with the quadrupled section between Bengaluru Cantonment and Whitefield. The yard will also be integrated with the suburban railway network for the facilitation of seamless mass transportation. Further, a foot overbridge is being constructed which would connect Borebank Road to Netaji Road for the convenience of passengers/pedestrians," states the release.

Considering future expansion of the station, the SWR has decided to divert and widen the existing road in front of the station from the existing 15 metre to 24 metre. "Diversion and widening of the road will accommodate more traffic once the redeveloped station becomes operational," said the official. The BBMP has given its consent for diversion and widening of the road.

Existing structure will be preserved

The official said that the existing structure of the Cantonment Station which has heritage value will be preserved. This station had started operations in the 1860s with the commencement of railway services on the Bangalore Cantonment - Jolarpettai line.

The SWR will study the condition of the existing structure prior to taking up future construction works. The architectural elevation/façade attempts to capture the spirit of Bengaluru. Proposed sine-waves roof of the façade to signify the concept of motion/progress with the aid of technology, the pillars supporting the roof have the shape of a flower at the location where they join the roof signifying Bengaluru as the 'garden city'.

City to host Army Day parade on Jan. 15

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru will host the upcoming Army Day parade on January 15, 2023, keeping in tune with the decision to hold such events of national importance outside the national capital so that they get wider visibility, and have greater participation of citizens.

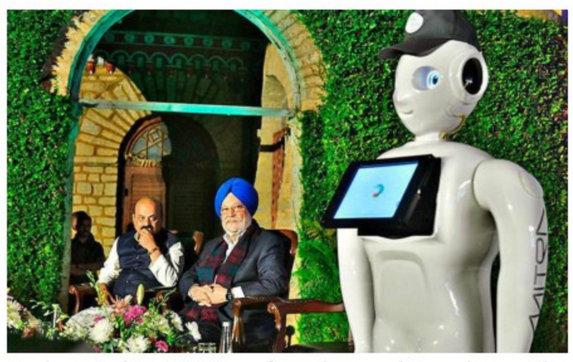
The Army Day parade signifies the formal taking over of the Indian Army by its first Indian Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa on January 15, 1949, replacing his British predecessor.

"While the conduct of this historical event at Bengaluru is in recognition of the valour, sacrifices, and services of the people of southern India for the nation, it is also an apt tribute to Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa who hails from Karnataka," the Ministry of Defence said on Friday.

General Manoj Pande, Chief of the Army Staff, will lay a wreath at Bengaluru to honour the martyrs, and review the Army Day Parade on January 15. The parade, while highlighting the military prowess of the Indian Army, will also showcase Indian Army's efforts to transform into a future ready, technology-driven, lethal and agile force.

As a prelude to the Army Day 2023, the Southern Command Investiture Ceremony will also be held at Bengaluru on January 13, wherein Lt. Gen. A.K. Singh, Army Commander, Southern Command, will present distinguished service awards to Army personnel. A series of events showcasing Indian Army's commitment to nation building is planned over the next one month.

G20 event: India Energy Week 2023 to be held in Bengaluru



Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, with Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai during the curtain-raiser of India Energy Week 2023 in Bengaluru on Friday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

India Energy Week 2023 (IEW 2023), to be organised during India's G20 Presidency, will be held in Bengaluru between February 6 and 8, 2023. A curtain-raiser was inaugurated by Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday. The curtain-raiser marks the beginning of a number of preparatory events being hosted in the run-up to the India Energy Week 2023.

Various other events lined up include Dancing Charge Electric Vehicles on December 23 at Kartavya Path, New Delhi, and a car rally of Sustainable Fuel Vehicles from New Delhi to Manesar on January 8 which will showcase India's multiple pathways for a cleaner and greener energy future.

India's potential

During the curtain-raiser, Mr. Puri showcased the strides India has made in the energy sector, including making India an investment-friendly destination in the exploration and production sector, energy infrastructure, and for shifting the manufacturing centre to India.

Mr. Puri also reiterated the steps the government was taking to ensure that the 60 million consumers, who on an average visit the petrol pumps daily, are safeguarded from the extreme volatility visible in global energy markets.

IEW 2023 is expected to feature more than 30 energy ministers, 50 CEOs and more than 10,000 delegates.

During the event, there would be 19 strategic conference sessions covering themes such as Energy Security, pathways for decarbonisation, resilient energy supply chains, emerging fuels such as Biofuel and Hydrogen, Investments in Upstream and Midstream Sector etc.

Energy resources

On the occasion, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said there should be a sense of balance as far as usage of fossil fuels is concerned.

"Innovation is the answer for our challenge, use of less fossil fuels is the right way ahead, but to keep up with the pace of our economic growth we should have a sense of balance so we are looking for an eco-economy in the energy sector. We have to ride these two horses in the same direction," Mr. Bommai said.

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INBRIEF

Vijay Diwas celebrations held in Bengaluru

To commemorate the victory of the Indian Armed Forces over Pakistan in the 1971 War and to pay homage to the warriors, 'Vijay Diwas' was celebrated on Friday at the Headquarters Training Command, Bengaluru.

A wreath laying ceremony was organised at the HQ TC War Memorial to pay homage to the martyrs.

Thaawarchand Gehlot, Governor of Karnataka, and Air Marshal Manavendra Singh, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Training Command laid wreaths at the war memorial to commemorate the occasion.

Children of 46,000 weavers to come under Vidya Nidhi

The State government has decided to cover children from 46,000 families of weavers under the Vidyanidhi scheme, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai announced on Friday in the presence of Textile Minister Shankar Patil Munenakoppa and Home Minister Araga Jnanendra. Directing officials to prepare a list of beneficiaries, Mr. Bommai instructed them to seek documents from the weavers' families about the students and submit the data in 15 days. His directions came during a programme to distribute financial assistance to weavers through DBT under the Nekar Samman Yojane.

Ex-MLA's wife held for 'conspiracy' against seer

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

The Chitradurga Rural Police on Friday arrested Soubhagya Basavarajan, former ZP president and wife of ex-MLA Basavarajan, in connection with the case of 'hatching a conspiracy' against the seer of Murugha Mutt Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru. The court has remanded her in police custody for a day.

According to the police, Ms. Basavarajan, who was reportedly was absconding after the case was filed, was traced in Davanagere and brought to the Chitradurga woman police station on Friday by a team led by inspector Raghavendra.

Ms. Soubhagya is facing charges of 'hatching a conspiracy' against the head of the mutt by allegedly instigating a few girl students to register cases against the seer under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012. Soon after the case was filed, Ms. Soubhagha had gone incommunicado fearing arrest and the police had formed a team to trace her. Although she had filed an anticipatory bail plea, it was rejected by the District Principal and Sessions Court.

On Friday evening, after bringing the accused to Chitradurga, the rural police produced her before First JMFC Court and sought police custody for five days. However the court granted police custody only for a day and asked the police to produce the accused before the court by 5.45 p.m. on Saturday. The police have arrested ex-MLA S.K. Basavarajan, Basavararajendra, a teacher, and Mayur, a photographer, in connection with this case. All have been charged with instigating the girls to file a false complaint against the seer.

Takes charge

Meanwhile, former bureaucrat P.S. Vastrad took charge as the administrator of Murugha Mutt Trust and SJM Vidyapeetha on Friday.

Reddy's attempted political re-entry takes shape with house-warming ceremony

While there are rumours of him quitting BJP to form his own party, political observers say he may only use it as leverage to bargain with the party

Kumar Buradikatti
Rishikesh Bahadur Desai
KALABURAGI/BELAGAVI

The *griha pravesha* ceremony held on Thursday of three inter-connected housing units at Gangavati in Koppal district, believed to be obtained on lease by Gali Janardhana Reddy, mining baron and former Minister, is one more step in his attempted re-entry into electoral politics from outside Ballari district.

The Supreme Court has barred the entry or residence of the BJP leader in Ballari district.

Gangavati constituency lies on the border of Ballari district and is 62 kilometres away from Ballari city. Mr. Reddy's supporters say this is the "strongest sign" of his re-entry in to active politics. He has been inactive for 12 years, since he was arrested by the CBI for his alleged role in the mining scam.

Janardhana Reddy's wife Aruna Lakshmi conducted the rituals and said that he was away in New Delhi for some important work. Meanwhile, rumours continue to do the rounds that he is set to cut his two-decade-old association with the BJP that made him one of the most powerful persons in the State at one time. He hinted that he would quit the BJP and form his own party. He told a meeting of Muslim youth, after a cricket match in Ballari, that he would move on with his life, without the BJP. He recently participated in a pilgrimage to Anjanadri hill in Koppal, where he announced that he was

Aruna Lakshmi, wife of former Minister Janardhana Reddy, performing *gruha pravesha puja* at their new home in Gangavati in Koppal district. SANTOSH SAGAR

"very much in the BJP, but would take a call on his future in a few days." A fortnight later, he said he would announce his decision after December 18.

All in the family

His elder brother Karunakara Reddy represents Harapanahalli Assembly constituency, younger brother Somashekar Reddy is the Ballari rural MLA. B. Sriramulu, whom Janardhana Reddy calls "a close friend", is a MLA from Molakalmuru in Chitradurga district and Tribal Welfare Minister.

Some followers say he is upset with the way the BJP has been treating him for the few years. He will create a new party, field his followers from around 25-30 seats in parts of Karnataka and try to reduce the BJP's vote share.

Another loyalist said Janardhana Reddy may support a new party, but was unlikely to join it immediately. "Three confidants, including a lawyer, have been visiting New Delhi and Bengaluru to register a new party. Mr. Reddy may use it as a leverage to bargain with the BJP top leadership instead of joining the new party. He may join the new party, ultimately, if he is fails to get a favourable message from the BJP about his political future even after the Assembly polls," said another person close to Janardhana Reddy, who has also served as an office-bearer in BRS party, that was founded by B. Sriramulu in the past.

Sriramulu's role

There are rumours that Janardhana Reddy and Mr. Sriramulu no longer get along. However, both the leaders have denied this. "The new party would be built on the basis of the mass support that Mr. Sriramulu commands in some districts and the financial clout of Janardhana Reddy. His influence is visible in constituencies reserved for the Scheduled Tribes or those in which the ST population is higher. Mr. Reddy lacks the support of a caste vote bank and therefore, it is impossible to imagine him building a party without the support of Mr. Sriamulu," said a political observer.

Bommai wants Congress leaders to clarify if they are in favour of terrorists

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai asked the Congress to clarify if the party is in favour of terrorists, or patriots who are working against them, and accused the Congress of following 'appeasement politics' at the time of elections.

This came a day after KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar accused the BJP government of using the Mangaluru cooker bomb blast to divert attention away from its failures. On Friday, Mr. Shivakumar clarified that there is no question of defending terrorists, and that his statement is being misconstrued.

Basavaraj Bommai

"Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and M. Mallikarjun Kharge should clarify if they are in favour of terrorists or patriots," the Chief Minister told mediapersons in Bengaluru on the sidelines of Vijay Diwas celebrations. "Questioning the arrest of terrorists and the line of investigation will work as morale booster to terror organisations. It is proved that the person was carrying all bomb-related items in a cooker with an intention to carry out a blast in Mangaralu. He had tried to mask his identity, and it is clear that he had links both within and outside the country," the Chief Minister said.

Mr. Bommai said, it does not augur well for a person of the stature of KPCC president to state that the incident was used as a diversionary tactic. "It is the habit of the Congress to see terror activities as a non-serious issue. It had criticised the hanging of a terrorist. It is the old tactic of Congress that has an eye on votes of minorities."

Committed to unity: DKS

On Friday, clarifying that he had not justified the Mangaluru cooker blast, KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar said, "Our leaders were victims of terrorism. We are committed to the unity, integrity and harmony of the country, and I do not tolerate terrorism.

"The BJP uses such incidents to mask its failure and diverts the attention of voters. I only said that the BJP used the incident to divert attention from corruption and voters' data theft issue. I did not ask the government not to investigate the blast. I also said that the BJP used the incident to divert the attention from the dissidence in the BJP by (former Chief Minister) B.S. Yediyurappa."

Moral policing: Bajrang Dal activists booked

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Bantwal police suo motu registered a case against a group of Bajarang Dal activists for allegedly waylaying a private bus in which a man and woman from different faiths were travelling on Thursday night.

According to police, the activists were tipped off about a woman from Hindu community travelling with a man from Muslim community in a bus bound to Bengaluru. The activists stopped the bus in Dasakodi, near Mani, on the Mangaluru-Bengaluru National Highway 75.

Woman hits back

The activists confronted the woman for travelling with a Muslim man. The woman retorted and questioned the activists' conduct. Fellow commuters too joined the woman in questioning the activists. The police arrived soon after and took away the woman, the man and the activists to the police station.

Superintendent of Police Rishikesh Sonawane said the woman did not file any complaint against the activists. The Bantwal police registered suo motu a case of wrongful restraint and unlawful assembly against the activists.

Meanwhile, the woman was taken home by her parents after the incident. A short clipping of the woman confronting the activists has gone viral on the social media.

(Government of Karnataka)
RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT HASSAN DIVISION HASSAN
Phone No.08172-261640 Email Id:eerdwsd.hsn@gmail.com

TWO COVER SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 16/2022-23 DATED : 15-12-2022

On Behalf Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department Hassan Division Hassan. Has Invited the Tender for the works of Channarayapatna,Belur, Arkalgud And Sakaleshpura Taluks Approved under 2022-23 JJM Mention Below, One Cover System works Channarayapatna Taluk 03 Works(SC-2 Works, ST- 1 work) Belur Taluk 07 Works(SC-4 Works, ST- 3 works) Sakleshpur Taluk 01 Work (General) Two Cover System works Belur Taluk 01 Work (General) Arkalgud Taluk 01 Work (General) Above work tenders are invited in Two and One cover system in e-procurement portal. The tender details are available in www.e-procurement.karnataka.gov.in From 16-12-2022 After 5.30P.m . The bidder should submitted the tender with in the dated: 22-12-2022 before 5-30 P.M. On Dated:19-12-2022 The Pre-bid Meeting will be conducted in this office, Interested Contractor may participated. Venue : Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Department, Zilla Panchyath Building, N.R,Circle Hassan. The Technical bid will open on dated:23-12-2022 after 11:00 a.M. The Financial bid of the Technically qualified bidder will be open on dated: 26-12-2022 after 11.00A.M. The Executive Engineer has reserved the rights of to cancel all tender or any one tender without giving any reason.

Sd/- Executive Engineer Rural drinking water and sanitation Dept, Hassan division, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೫/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/ಎಂಸಿಎ/835/2022–23

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

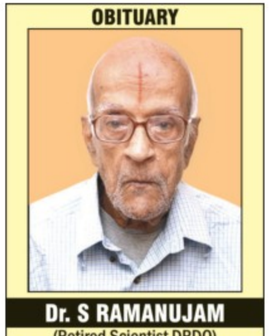
DEATH

Sad Demise

Jayalaksmi Narayanan
W/o K.P. Narayanan
aged 95 years passed away in Chennai on 15th December after a brief illness.
Deeply mourned by
Family and Friends
Ct: 93400 15554 / 98404 99779

DEATH

OBITUARY



Dr. S RAMANUJAM
(Retired Scientist DRDO)
July 4, 1932 – December 15, 2022
Deeply mourned by
wife Srirangam (Rajam), daughter Radhika Krishnan, son-in-law N J Krishnan and granddaughters.

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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DONATE EYES GIFT SIGHT

DEATH

"Lives of great men all remind us, we can make our lives sublime, and, departing, leave behind us, footprints on the sands of time."

N. Srinivasan
DOB: 27th July 1931 | DOD: 16th December 2022

Former Senior Partner in leading firms of Chartered Accountants Fraser & Ross and Deloitte Haskins & Sells(Chennai)

Former Chairman/ Member of Board Of Directors of many reputed Corporate Bodies

Former President/ Member in Leading trade Associations4) Former Chairman of SIRC and Member of Central Council of ICAI

Inserted by :
Yogambal Srinivasan
S. Venkatakrishnan & Hamsa Venkatakrishnan
Bhavani Balasubramanian & K. Balasubramanian
Contact No: 9841049961

Wild elephant dies after biting live wire near T.N.-A.P. border

The Hindu Bureau
CHITTOOR

The elephant entered the paddy field and chewed the live cables at the ground level

A 35-year-old female elephant from the forests of the Gudiyattam range of Tamil Nadu was electrocuted when it reportedly bit the live power cables at a bore well in the agriculture fields, at Kodalamadugu village of Bangarupalem mandal in Andhra Pradesh, 40 km from here, in the early hours of Friday.

According to information, a herd of elephants crossed into Bangarupalem mandal on Thursday night, prowling in the fields till the early hours of Friday. Close to dawn, a female elephant strayed away from the herd and entered a paddy field, where it chewed the live cables at the ground level.

With the cables struck in the animal's mouth, it died instantaneously. The other members of the herd had left the spot by dawn, thus preventing the possibility of them getting electrocuted.

Forest Range Officer (Palamaner) Nayeem Ali said that the impact of the electric shock was fatal as the live cables were struck inside the elephant's mouth. The official said that in recent weeks, there was a hectic activity of wild elephants in Chittoor West and Palamaner ranges.

SC to examine A.P. govt.'s plea seeking division of properties

The assets valued at ₹1,42,601 crore include 245 institutions and corporations specified under the Ninth and Tenth Schedules of Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, says State government

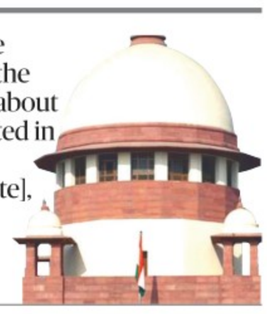
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to examine a petition filed by the Andhra Pradesh government seeking a "fair, equitable, and expeditious" division of assets and liabilities with Telangana.

A Bench led by Sanjiv Khanna asked senior advocate K.V. Vishwanathan and advocate Mahfooz Nazki, for Andhra Pradesh, to serve copies of the petition to the Union and Telangana governments.

The court said it would take up the case after the winter vacations. The State said the assets include 245 institutions and corporations specified under the Ninth and Tenth Schedules of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.

> Non-division of the assets is clearly to the benefit of Telangana, since about 91% of these assets are situated in Hyderabad [the capital of the erstwhile combined State], which is now in Telangana
> GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH



"The total value of the fixed assets of the 245 institutions to be divided is about ₹1,42,601 crore. Non-division of the assets is clearly to the benefit of Telangana since about 91% of these assets are situated in Hyderabad [the capital of the erstwhile combined State] which is now in Telangana," Andhra Pradesh government submitted.

The State said despite the bifurcation on June 2, 2014, the actual division of assets and liabilities has not even commenced till date despite repeated efforts by the Government of Andhra Pradesh seeking a speedy resolution.

"Despite a lapse of more than 8 years, Andhra Bhawan situated in Delhi has not been formally bifurcated," the petition said.

It said Hyderabad, now a part of Telangana, was the capital of the combined State of Andhra Pradesh. The non-apportionment of the assets has led to a multitude of issues adversely affecting and violating the fundamental and other constitutional rights of the people of the State of Andhra Pradesh, including over 1.59 lakh government employees.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Cold wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and north Rajasthan. Squally wind is likely over southwest Bay of Bengal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	24.0	15.5	Kozhikode	—	33.4	22.2
Ahmedabad	—	33.4	19.0	Kurnool	—	33.5	19.7
Aizawl	—	—	8.6	Lucknow	—	24.2	9.5
Allahabad	—	26.5	9.4	Madurai	—	31.8	20.1
Bengaluru	—	29.0	15.0	Mangaluru	—	32.6	21.0
Bhopal	—	28.8	15.2	Mumbai	—	35.5	23.0
Bhubaneswar	—	29.4	17.2	Mysuru	—	30.0	20.0
Chandigarh	—	22.1	7.8	New Delhi	—	24.5	6.2
Chennai	—	30.0	22.2	Patna	—	23.5	9.1
Coimbatore	—	30.8	18.0	Port Blair	—	30.5	25.2
Dehradun	—	23.4	7.0	Puducherry	—	31.3	20.2
Gangtok	—	14.2	9.5	Pune	—	32.3	18.8
Goa	—	33.8	21.3	Raipur	—	31.2	18.6
Guwahati	—	27.2	15.7	Ranchi	—	25.2	11.9
Hubballi	—	31.0	17.0	Shillong	—	17.8	8.6
Hyderabad	—	30.8	18.6	Shimla	—	18.0	10.0
Imphal	—	23.3	6.1	Srinagar	—	11.6	-3.6
Jaipur	—	25.2	8.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.6	22.1
Kochi	—	31.0	23.2	Tiruchi	—	30.7	21.0
Kohima	—	19.2	6.8	Vijayawada	—	31.4	21.5
Kolkata	—	25.5	13.2	Visakhapatnam	—	30.0	23.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.23	153	.59	...56	...72	
Bengaluru	.13	..20	.36	...207	...108	
Chennai	.24	.44	.36	...158	...112	
Delhi	.23	122	.62	...311	...226	
Hyderabad	.21	..25	.76	...130	...129	
Kolkata	...8	.38	.49	...258	...178	
Lucknow	.13	..54	.71	...221	...167	
Mumbai	.17	..18	105	...245	...154	
Pune	..—	..74	.85	.....—	.....—	.....—
Visakhapatnam	.32	..57	.29	.....—	...206	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Purnia, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 419 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Maihar, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 31

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Wayanad rice festival promotes climate-resilient crops

SPECIAL

E.M. Manoj
KALPETTA

At a time when climate vagaries are posing a serious threat to farming in the country, a Kerala-based organisation named *Thanal* has embarked on a unique conservation experiment, planting 300 climate-resilient varieties of traditional rice on 1.5 acre of land at its agroecology centre in Panavally in the Wayanad district.

On December 12, *Thanal* gave the public an opportunity to experience their initiative by launching *Ikki Jathre*, or the Festival of Rice in tribal parlance. Throngs of farmers, researchers, environmentalists and students have been arriving at Panavally to take part in the festival, which concludes on Sunday.

The initiative aims to sensitise people to the significance of conserving traditional crops that have the ability to withstand harsh climatic conditions. *Thanal* has been organising annual "rice field weeks" since 2012.

Learning ground: An aerial view of the Rice Diversity Block at Panavally in Wayanad district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The festival also sets the stage for knowledge sharing and co-creation of knowledge between tribal farmers and experts. "We launched the Rice Diversity Block (RDB) at Panavally under the Save Our Rice campaign in 2009, with a collection of 30 varieties of rice," Thanal director S. Usha told *The Hindu*. It has now expanded to 300 varieties.

"Many farmers had stopped cultivating traditional rice seeds after hybrid rice varieties became popular, under the misconception that the former has low productivity. But this is not true. The *Thondy* variety, a traditional and popular rice among the people in Wayanad a few decades ago, could compete with any hybrid rice in terms of productivity," she said. Moreover, the input cost of traditional rice cultivation is very low owing to its inherent resistance to pests and diseases. Also, its nutritional value is high, though studies are yet to be conducted.

Though many traditional rice varieties, especially black rice varieties, are already rich in minerals like zinc, iron and other nutrients, the government is now trying to supply fortified rice by artificially adding minerals and nutrients to hybrid rice varieties.

Karnataka HC directs govt. to register vehicles of pvt. company employees under BH series

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Friday directed the State government to register the non-transport vehicles of the eligible employees of private companies in Bharat (BH) series as per the law amended by the Central government in August 2021.

Justice C.M. Poonacha passed the order while allowing the petitions filed by T. Shalini, an employee of Accenture Solutions Pvt. Limited and others. The petitioners had questioned rejection of their application for registration of their vehicles under the BH series.

FROM THE COURT

The amended rule states that the employees of private sector are required to submit working certificate in the prescribed form to claim the BH series registration for their vehicles

The State Transport Department, by a circular issued on December 20, 2021 had extended benefit of BH series only to the vehicles owned by the officers of All India Service, Central Government employees holding posts of inter-State transfer; and Bank officers holding posts of inter-State transfer.

The petitioners had contended that this circular was contrary to the amended Central Motor Vehicles (20th Amendment) Rules 2021, for non transportation vehicles, issued on August 26, 2021.

However, the State government had claimed that it is difficult to ascertain transferable jobs in private companies as majority of the employees work on contract basis and they change jobs frequently. And this situation would impact collection of road tax due to difficulty to determine transferable jobs in private companies, the State government has stated.

On the other hand, the Central government has made it clear to the Court that the facility under BH series is applicable on voluntary basis to Defence personnel, employees of Central Government/State Government/Central/State Public Sector Undertakings and private sector companies/organisations, which have their offices in four or more States/Union territories.

The amended rule states that the employees of private sector are required to submit working certificate in the prescribed form to claim the BH series registration for their vehicles, and the notified government and public sector employees will have to produce copy their official identity cards to avail this facility.

The Court said that the State government will have to implement the amended rule notified on August 26, 2021 for the registration of vehicles of private companies under BH series.

Colourful facade

Bangalore Palace was illuminated during the curtain-raiser of 'India Energy Week - 2023', in Bengaluru on Friday. K. MURALI KUMAR

India is looking forward to engaging with Russia in energy sector: Hardeep Singh Puri

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday said India is looking forward to engaging with all countries, including Russia, in the energy sector.

Mr. Puri said prior to March 31, 2022, India was buying oil in very limited quantities but now Russia has become a prominent supplier along with some middle-eastern countries.

"We used to buy very limited quantities of oil from Russia up to March 31, 2022, which was 0.2%, and now Russia has become a prominent supplier along with the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait," Hardeep Singh Puri said.

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri addresses a press conference at the curtain-raiser of India Energy Week 2023 in Bengaluru on Friday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Mr. Puri, when asked for his views on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's telephone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday, said, "I look forward to more comprehensive and intensified engagements with all countries in the sector of energy, including the Russian Federation."

Mr. Puri added that India's cooperation with Russia on energy is very widespread.

"If I am not mistaken, the Russian investment in the Indian sector is about $13 billion and our companies have invested $16 billion in Russia," he added.

SC dismisses plea of Saritha against Wayanad election result

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a petition filed by Saritha S. Nair, an accused in the Solar scam case, challenging the election of former Congress president Rahul Gandhi from Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency in Kerala in 2019. A Bench of Justices A.S. Bopanna and Dipankar Datta dismissed her petition.

The court had in November 2020 dismissed a similar petition by Ms. Nair against Mr. Gandhi's electoral win.

At the time, the hearing was virtual and the court had been unable to get in touch with Ms. Nair's lawyer.

MLA threatens to demolish 'illegal' mosque in Belagavi with earthmover

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Tension prevailed in Jaitunmal Parvati Nagar behind Udyambag industrial area in Belagavi on Thursday night, when a crowd led by Abhay Patil, BJP leader and MLA, took an earthmover to the area to demolish what they claimed was an illegally built mosque.

The mosque in question is a shed on private property. It is situated in a residential layout in Belagavi rural police limits.

Mr. Patil reached the place along with a group of youth at midnight. He threatened to demolish the structure saying it was illegal. He accused the mosque committee members of going ahead with the construction despite objection from local government and revenue authorities.

He said that the district administration was delaying the demolition even after reports by the Assistant Commissioner and Tahsildar. He alleged that the loudspeaker from the mosque was causing inconvenience to the residents.

City Police Commissioner M.B. Boralingaiah and Deputy Commissioner Nitesh Patil rushed to the spot in the wee hours. "The DC told the MLA that the structure would be demolished if it was found that it was illegal. Mr. Patil was not convinced with the assurance and set a deadline of January 5 for the demolition," eyewitness accounts said. Officers succeeded in convincing the MLA to leave the spot and the crowd to disperse, after a few hours of persuasion.

'Transfer the officers'

The MLA told *The Hindu* that he was absolutely disappointed with the city police. "I will raise this issue in the winter session of the Assembly. I want the State government to transfer all police officers who are in the district for a long time. There are some senior officers who have completed all their service in Belagavi city. They are nearing retirement. But they are not efficient. Such people should be sent out," he said.

Revenue officers say that the controversial structure was a shed and not a concrete structure.

"A few months ago, Mohammad Ali, one of the persons on the mosque committee had obtained a permission from the government to build a mosque on private land donated by a philanthropist. However, the district administration had asked the land owner and mosque committee not to go ahead with the mosque as some local residents were objecting to it. However, it is in violation of any land law or building by law as it is not a permanent structure," a senior officer said.

An inquiry would be held into its legality, they said.

Countering terror

All nations must come together against groups targeting civilians

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's listing of four hurdles to better counterterrorism cooperation, i.e., state support for financing terror; multilateral mechanisms that are opaque and agenda driven; double standards and politicisation of countering terrorism according to where terror groups belong, and the "next frontier" (the use of emerging technologies such as drones and virtual currency by terrorists), needs attention. The focus of the UNSC special briefing on Thursday, 'Global Counterterrorism Approach', that was convened by India, is well-timed given that the "Global War on Terrorism" and the sanctions regimes launched after 9/11 are in disarray. In their haste to exit Afghanistan in 2021, for example, the UNSC's permanent members, the U.S. and the U.K. struck the biggest blow to the sanctions regime by holding talks with the Taliban, easing their path to power in Kabul and letting their handlers in Pakistan off the hook. Second, as Mr. Jaishankar has pointed out, a P-5 country (China) continues to block the designations of Pakistan-based terrorists, including five named this year, from the LeT and the JeM. Finally, instead of uniting to accept India's proposal, of 1996, of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terror to institute global practices on countering terror, the P-5 countries are hopelessly polarised, and irrevocably so, over Russia's war in Ukraine. Given the scenario, New Delhi's attempt at highlighting the issues during the last few weeks of its two-year UNSC tenure was apt, as it built up to the briefing with conferences in India including a UN Counter-Terrorism Committee meeting, the No Money For Terror conference, and an Interpol conference.

It is unfortunate, however, that the briefing appears to have been overshadowed by heated words outside the Council between Mr. Jaishankar and his Pakistani counterpart Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. In response to Mr. Jaishankar's comments on Pakistan being the "epicentre of terrorism", Mr. Bhutto chose to launch a personal tirade against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the 2002 Gujarat riots. That Pakistan's "dossier" on what it claims is an Indian hand behind a blast in Lahore essentially pertains to an attack on the 26/11 terrorist strikes mastermind and LeT chief Hafiz Saeed is equally telling about the Pakistan government's regard for him, as well as its desire to muddy the global narrative on terrorism. The Government would be better served by not taking the bait, and focusing instead on the task at hand: "re-invigorating" the global agenda and counter-terrorism architecture by emphasising the need for unity on the issue, and for all countries to provide resources to the battle against those driven by a radical ideology who continue to threaten civilian populations worldwide.

Dangerous gamble

Turkey should not use its geopolitical advantage to crush Syrian Kurds

Turkey's recent attacks on Syria's Kurdish towns and its threat of a ground invasion could destabilise the border region, which has yet to recover from the scars of a long civil war and the violence by the Islamic State (IS) terrorist group. The trigger was the November 13 blast in Istanbul that claimed six lives. Turkey has blamed the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), the Kurdish militant group operating in its southeastern parts, and the People's Protection Units (YPG), a Syrian-Kurdish militia, for the blast (they have denied the allegations) and has carried out air strikes in Syria's Kurdish towns. Turkey has reportedly asked the YPG to withdraw from key towns on the border – Manbij, Tal Rifaat and Kobane – soon and has threatened to launch another cross-border incursion into Syria if the YPG failed to do so. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan wants to create a buffer zone between the YPG-controlled towns in Syria and Turkey's own Kurdish territories, where the state has been fighting the PKK. Ankara sees the YPG as an ideological and organisational brother of the PKK, which it has designated, along with the U.S. and European countries, as a terrorist organisation.

Turkey has carried out several incursions in the past into Syria, gobbling up territories now manned by the Syrian National Army, a rebel umbrella group that is opposed to Damascus and backed by Ankara. But, Turkey had also come under pressure from the U.S., its NATO partner that backs a YPG-led militia group, and Russia, an ally of the Syrian regime, which placed constraints on its operations. However, Russia's Ukraine war seems to have altered the geopolitical reality in the region in Turkey's favour. A preoccupied Russia would not like to antagonise Turkey, which despite being a NATO member has not joined the U.S.-led sanctions, and the U.S. would want Ankara's support for the inclusion of Sweden and Finland into NATO. This opens space for Mr. Erdoğan to up the ante in Syria. But this could be a dangerous bet. The IS had captured most of these border towns in 2014-15. The YPG, with U.S. help, had fought hard against the IS to liberate the region. Now under attack, the YPG has already said it would end patrolling of many towns on the border. A Turkish incursion could trigger further chaos, which could help Islamist militants to regroup and push the Kurdish population, already victims of years of wars, into further misery. Instead of taking the military path, Mr. Erdoğan should hold talks with Russia and the U.S., which have better ties with the Syrian Kurds, to find a workable solution to stabilise the border.

Election results and the dangers of false explanations

Praveen Chakravarty

is a political economist and Chairman, Data Analytics department of the Congress party

On October 26, a 19th century bridge over the Machhu river in the town of Morbi in Gujarat – it was reconstructed with the money of the local people – was opened to the public in a grand show. Five days later, the bridge collapsed, killing an estimated 135 people and injuring 180 others. It was obvious that there was mischief and dubious dealings in the awarding of the contract to an inexperienced private firm to renovate the bridge. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was (and is) in power in the State and in the local administration; the local legislator was also from the BJP.

Falling into a trap

A little over a month later, in December, there was a State election where voters in Morbi cast their votes. Nearly 50,000 more people in Morbi voted for the BJP than they had in the election in 2017 or the 2020 by-election. That is, soon after the bridge collapsed and where many people lost their lives, the people of Morbi seem to have rewarded the BJP by voting for the party in greater numbers than they had previously. The BJP's vote share in Morbi was a whopping 60% in 2022 *vis-à-vis* just 45% in 2017. In fact, even in the polling areas right near the collapsed bridge, more voters voted for the BJP in 2022 than they had in 2017. Can we then infer that the BJP won Morbi constituency only because a bridge collapsed, and many lost their lives?

It is obviously a silly and facetious, but a deliberately provocative question. Such a stupid question insults our basic intelligence and assaults our moral senses. If any, the real question to ask is: why did voters in Morbi not punish the BJP for this tragedy, especially when it happened just a few weeks before the election?

Yet, if one were to look at it dispassionately and in an abstract manner, an event x happened (i.e., the bridge collapse) and then a seemingly related event y happened (the BJP's victory). It is tempting and intuitive for the human mind to correlate the two and conclude that x led to y.

This happens all the time in our public commentary.

In the rush to explain electoral outcomes, media commentators and even so-called experts such as pollsters and political scientists fall into this trap constantly. If a political party makes a promise or carries out a specific campaign (x) for an election and then that party wins the election (y), commentators immediately conclude that the party won the election because of its promise (x led to y). Why is it that the "x led to y" rationale seems so absurd in the case of the collapse of the bridge but is entirely plausible in the case of an election promise or a campaign, even though the underlying logic is exactly the same? Because, context matters.

Attributing causes to electoral outcomes in a democracy form a serious exercise that needs to be carried out with extreme rigour and care by experts

Just as it is illogical to assert that the two events – the collapse of a bridge due to the BJP's misgovernance and the subsequent victory of the BJP in that constituency – reflect a causal relationship, it is equally inappropriate to assert, without rigorous evidence, that a particular campaign or a promise or an event led to an electoral victory or loss.

Simplistic correlations

Pollsters who carry out surveys to determine what influences people's voting choices, often ask people what their major issues are, and then which way they plan to vote. They then correlate the two simplistically to draw/make strong conclusions. For example, a survey may show that people want lower taxes. If a political party promises lower taxes and wins an election, it does not automatically mean that the party won because it promised lower taxes that the people wanted, although it seems very intuitive. The more rigorous way to analyse this is to ask this: would that party not have won the election had it not promised lower taxes?

The philosopher Karl Popper famously argued that unless a theory can pass the test of 'falsifiability' it cannot be regarded as the absolute truth. To put it simply, he said claiming all swans are white should also conclusively mean that there is not a single black swan. The economists Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer won the Nobel prize (2019) for developing a methodology called randomised control trials (RCT) that designs experiments to conclusively infer that x led to y in policy experiments such as providing midday meals in schools will lead to improved educational outcomes. A simplified version of such RCTs can be adapted for electoral surveys to draw more robust inferences.

In our example, two sets of survey questions can be designed, with one set telling voters clearly that a political party has promised lower taxes and another set in which the party does not make such a promise. Voters can be randomly given one of these two questionnaires for a survey of equal sample sizes. If there is no difference in vote shares for the party across these two survey sets, then it will be clear that a promise of lower taxes has no influence on people's voting intent, and if there is a significant difference, then it makes sense for the party to promise lower taxes.

This is a more rigorous way of establishing causal links between the two than the current simplistic and grossly misleading manner of imputing causation through what pollsters call 'cross-tab' analysis. This is one major reason why the same election promise or tactic seems to work for just one party or in one State or one area or with one section of people while it does not in others, puzzling political parties and leaders.

For example, the Aam Aadmi Party promised many of the same things that the Congress party did in Himachal Pradesh in the run-up to the elections in November, but it did not seem to work for them; nor did some of the same promises work for the Congress party across all districts of Himachal Pradesh. Misinterpreting causal links for electoral outcomes through simplistic and non-rigorous narratives and developing a misleading narrative for an electoral outcome is often more dangerous than having no explanation at all.

The last word

It is easy to dismiss all this as some inane academic discussion of scientific methods (by intellectuals far removed from the ground) that are irrelevant to the real world. Learning from electoral victories or failures is extremely important to democracies as they shape and influence political and policy ideas for the nation. For example, one may wrongly infer that religious polarisation or promising zero taxes, foe example, wins elections, prompting all political parties to indulge in it in their quest for electoral victories, thereby causing irreparable damage to the nation. Attributing causes to electoral outcomes in a democracy form a serious exercise that needs to be carried out with extreme rigour and care by experts. It is too important and dangerous to reduce it to flippant theatrics for television or lazy research.

A channel acquired and dilemmas for the stakeholder

Karan Thapar

is a television anchor

Of the over 400 news channels in India the one I most regularly watch is NDTV, or New Delhi Television. Though I am often critical of its content and, occasionally, of its anchoring I am, nonetheless, an admirer of both. So the likelihood that, fairly shortly, Gautam Adani will become NDTV's majority stakeholder – with the power to significantly change the channel – is a matter of concern. Does this herald the end of NDTV as we have known it?

The *FT* interview

In an interview to the *Financial Times* in November, Mr. Adani has spoken about his future plans. As far as I know, it is the only time he has done so. He sees the NDTV acquisition as a "responsibility", not a business opportunity. Prima facie that sounds reassuring.

But the rest of the interview offers good reasons for raising some questions. They arise out of Mr. Adani's concept of media independence. "Independence means if government has done something wrong, you say it's wrong." No one could quarrel with that. However, he adds: "But at the same time, you should have courage when the government is doing the right thing every day. You have to say that." Which government does the right thing every day? I know of none. And why do you need courage to acknowledge it? The word suggests the wider constituency of journalism is pressuring you to be only adversarial. It is not.

Objectivity, the courage to be critical and credibility are what shape a great media product, which the majority stakeholder in NDTV ought to make a note of

Journalists need to be objective. They need to evaluate each story in terms of its merit, not take sides or even be neutral. Praising a government is actually easy. They like it. Criticising it is more difficult. This is where courage comes in. I am not sure if Mr. Adani's concept of media independence embraces this.

However, he does have big plans for NDTV. He wants to give it "a global footprint" adding, "India does not have one single [outlet] to compare to [the] *Financial Times* or Al Jazeera." This suggests two things: Mr. Adani plans to put a lot of money into NDTV and, presumably, he will protect its credibility because otherwise it cannot aspire to the status of the *Financial Times* and Al Jazeera.

The dilemmas to sort out

The problem is this laudable ambition clashes with his concept of media independence and, perhaps, places him squarely within a terrible dilemma. Or maybe two.

If NDTV were to praise the Government everyday it could be viewed as a propaganda organ of the Government. That would ensure it never rises to the level of the *Financial Times* and Al Jazeera. What Mr. Adani has possibly not grasped is that it is objectivity and the courage to be critical that has made the *Financial Times* a great paper. That is also true of Al Jazeera though, sadly, not when it covers its own government in Qatar. The other dilemma is, arguably, more likely to present itself sooner. Mr. Adani has the money to make NDTV global. He can put it on satellites that reach every corner of the globe. But if its credibility has been undermined, will anyone want to watch it? Perhaps a section of non-resident Indians, still aching for the land they have left and not fully at home where they are, but not many else.

The essence of the channel in question

There is one other concern which Mr. Adani has not addressed but is, in fact, critical to any success he has in mind for his new channel. NDTV has a distinct character, a loyal audience, and a high reputation. After spending hundreds of crores to buy it – and perhaps thousands of crores to take it global – does it make sense for Mr. Adani to make changes that could damage and undermine its reputation? He, therefore, needs to retain its best anchors and correspondents. Without them, NDTV is just hardware. But will they stay if he tampers with their objectivity and curbs their freedom of speech?

Perhaps this might temper his thinking. New journalists, to replace those who leave, will not be hard to recruit. But good journalists are more difficult to find. And they, probably, already have secure, well-paid jobs. Would they sacrifice them for a venture into the unknown?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

China's moves

It is beyond doubt now that China has a hidden agenda — to capture the dominating heights of the Indian side in the tri-junction (Page 1, "China builds ropeway, roads near tri-junction", December 16). The People's Liberation Army is implementing the directives of Beijing, and the scuffle between Indian and Chinese troops in the Tawang sector will not be the last one. The belligerent attitude of China has been evident right from the Doklam stand-off, in 2017. It is high time India took effective steps to make it clear to China that it can match its actions.

J. Radhakrishna Kurup,
Ettumanoor, Kottayam, Kerala

Any Chinese move to encroach further south in the Doklam plateau region is a matter of great concern for India as it will bring Chinese occupation closer to the sensitive Siliguri corridor. Bhutan's denial of any Chinese activity in Doklam has to be confirmed using the latest satellite imagery.

N. Rama Rao,
Chennai

China's moves to strengthen the road network and other infrastructure in the sector indicate a *mala fide* intent. China is showing itself to be untrustworthy and unscrupulous.

N. Shantha Kumar,
Bengaluru

Allowing China to go ahead and unchallenged with its infrastructure push will only encourage Beijing to go further. India cannot afford to waste any further time. There is nothing wrong if India seeks military aid from one of the superpowers. The goodwill created by the President of China, Xi Jinping, during his visit to India has been proved to be artificial and superfluous. It is rather unfortunate that such a high-profile visit has been rendered nugatory. China looks as though it is enhancing its firepower capabilities not to defend itself but to launch an offensive.

V. Lakshmanan,
Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

To read such a report at the age of 80 leaves me worried. It also brings back memories of when I was at the border, serving the nation at Nathang in Sikkim. I was transferred from Trivandrum to Sikkim in 1966, a time when China had warned India to withdraw its troops from Sikkim. The boundary was around Torsa Nala. There was no conflict except in 1962, where troops were cordial towards each other. I remember Chinese troops inviting us on our festival days and we reciprocating the gesture. War should not be thought of.

Balachandran Nair P.K.,
Elakollur, Konni, Kerala

Bollywood and cinema

As a passionate film-maker, it is but natural that Adoor Gopalakrishnan has rightly pointed out that the medium of cinema cannot be brushed aside as 'mere timepass'.
Even more significant is his observation that "cinema is equated with Bollywood".
No doubt, by its inherent long standing in the annals of film making and in addition to having an edge on account of its medium of language (Hindi), Bollywood has stolen a march within India as far as the celluloid world is concerned
But that does not diminish the otherwise intrinsic qualitative worth of South Indian films.

Seshagiri Row Karry,
Hyderabad

RTI and way ahead

The Right to Information Act was brought into force on June 15, 2005. It appears that the legislation has become weak with time. Some applications under Section 6 of the RTI Act are being rejected under Section 8 on the ground of exemption from disclosure of information. If the Act is enforced strictly, the legislature may even repeal it, true to Abraham Lincoln's quote, "The best way to have a statute repealed is to enforce it strictly". It's time to create special courts under the RTI Act for speedy disposal of applications rather than making the Information Commission entertain them.

K. Pradeep
Chennai

A challenge

Draconian steps in China to contain unrest under the guise of COVID-19 protocol, appear to have fired the people's angst even more. China's export-led growth has depended on cheap labour and economies of scale. This cost advantage is now diminishing as competition is growing. Inflation is another issue, with rising energy, food, and raw-material prices as food accounts for one-third of household spending. The stand-off with the U.S., the Ukraine conflict and an adamant COVID-19, have potential to impact the credibility of the Xi government.

R. Narayanan,
Navi Mumbai

Corrections & Clarifications

In "Old is not gold" (Editorial, December 16, 2022), the line "pension at 50% of the last drawn basic pay" should read "pension at 50% of the last drawn basic pay *plus DA*."

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Participants from Tamil Nadu of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam take a dip in the Ganga at the Hanuman Ghat in Varanasi. V.V. KRISHNAN

Forging a connect along the Ghats

The Union government's month-long Kashi Tamil Sangamam seeks to celebrate the bond between Varanasi and Tamil Nadu. **Jagriti Chandra** accompanies a batch of visitors as they visit temples, attend cultural programmes and academic sessions, and form first impressions

On the banks of the river Ganga, at the Dashashwamedh Ghat in Varanasi, priests hold brightly lit lamps under glittering parasols. Yuvraj Elumalaivasan has grabbed a front-row seat on the deck of a boat to watch the famous Ganga aarti, but scores of dinghies laden with devotees obstruct his view. Yuvraj is not complaining, however – hearing prayer bells and seeing lamps glow in the distance is a heady experience. This is his first boat ride ever, on his first trip outside Tamil Nadu.

Historical links

Yuvraj, 20, is in Varanasi as part of the Union government's 30-day Kashi Tamil Sangamam. This programme aims to celebrate the bond between Kashi (the ancient name of Varanasi) and Tamil Nadu under the framework of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat', which seeks to enhance interactions between people of different States and Union Territories. Yuvraj is one of the roughly 2,500 guests from Tamil Nadu to arrive in Uttar Pradesh in 12 batches. As part of the programme, the participants travel from Varanasi to Sarnath, Ayodhya and Prayagraj over six days. On November 16, the first groups from Tamil Nadu began to make their way to Kashi for the Sangamam, which concludes on December 19. This period was chosen for the event as it coincides with the Hindu month of Karthigai and will also enable guests from the south to finish their journey before the coldest winter spell arrives in north India.

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the event on November 19, he referred to Kashi as the "cultural capital of India". His speech was translated live in Tamil. The Kashi Tamil Sangamam presents a panoramic Hindu identity by linking the two regions as the oldest and most important centres of traditional knowledge systems. Ancient Indian philosophers from Tamil Nadu, like Ramunajacharya, travelled to Kashi to expand their spiritual learnings. The Tenkasi and Sivakasi temples in Tamil Nadu are said to be inspired by Varanasi's Kashi Vishwanath temple after the Pandya king, Adhiveera Rama Pandiyan, went on a pilgrimage to Varanasi. In Tamil Brahmin weddings, the groom embarks on a Kashi Yatra before he is called back to marry the bride. There are also references to Kashi in Tamil texts such as *Kalittokai* and *Thiruppugazh*.

Modi also appealed to Tamil pride by calling Tamil the oldest language in the world. He released the translation of the *Thirukkural* in 13 languages and announced that a chair dedicated to the Tamil poet Subramania Bharati, or Bharatiyar, would be set up in Banaras Hindu University (BHU). He shared the stage with Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, and Minister of State for Animal Husbandry L. Murugan. Composer and Rajya Sabha member Ilaiyaraja sang at the event, where the heads of nine *adheenams* (mutts) of Tamil Nadu were present. There was, however, no representation from the Tamil Nadu government, which the Centre claims to have invited.

At the ghats

The morning after the aarti, Yuvraj gets ready to take a dip in the chilly waters of the Ganga. Older guests offer water to the sun, blow conch shells, chant prayers and change into fresh clothes. Some smear sacred ash on their foreheads.

> The BJP is trying to rewrite the Tamil cultural narrative shaped by the Dravidian movement. And it can't do so without mixing it with religion.
>
> **RAMU MANIVANNAN**
> Professor at the University of Madras

"It is difficult for me to describe the emotions I felt while watching the Ganga aarti last night and the beautiful view this morning," says Yuvraj after his dip. "By sponsoring our travel and giving importance to the Tamil people, the Prime Minister is spreading Tamil culture..." His voice is drowned out by slogans of 'Har Har Mahadev', 'Bharat Mata ki jai' and 'Narendra Modi ki jai'.

Yuvraj and his college mates belong to a group which primarily comprises yoga teachers, astrologers, priests, temple cleaners, and people who chant hymns in temples. The different batches arriving in Varanasi belong to 12 different categories: students, artisans, literature, business, teacher, heritage, entrepreneurs, professionals, temples, spirituality, rural, and culture. The Indian Institute of Technology Madras, which is providing IT support for the event, launched a website for the registration of participants. The Director of IIT Madras, Professor V. Kamakoti, says candidates above the age of 18 were selected from across Tamil Nadu. Those travelling to Varanasi for the first time were given priority. There is an equal mix of men and women, and the participants are from different castes.

The group then makes its way through narrow streets to visit other spots on their itinerary. As they approach Bharatiyar's residence near Hanuman ghat, they break into a slogan: "Glory upon Tamil poet Bharatiyar." Inside the house, nearly everyone starts recording videos of Bharatiyar's grand-niece who speaks about the three years spent by the great Tamil poet in Varanasi. She says he learned languages such as Sanskrit, Hindi and Urdu during his time here. Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, and Bipin Chandra Pal inspired him and influenced his sartorial style, she says, referring to his iconic white turban.

But soon enough, there are political undertones in the conversation. K.V.R. Karthik, who is wearing a t-shirt depicting Bharatiyar, gets emotional. A Brahmin and a supporter of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), he says: "People look at Bharatiyar as a Brahmin, but look at his contribution to the freedom movement. He wrote songs exhorting people to join the freedom movement, to make weapons for protecting the country. On the other hand, Periyar wanted the British to continue to rule over India, yet the DMK (Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) only promotes him."

The cultural programme at the Kashi Tamil Sangamam. V.V. KRISHNAN

Karthik comes from Kovilpatti in Thoothukudi district. "The Prime Minister is promoting Tamil culture, whereas the State government and the regional parties have failed to do so. They only want us to believe in the greatness of the Tamil people and create a north-south divide," he says. Karthik claims that the Tamil Nadu government is promoting conflicts over language, but "doing little to promote the Tamil language."

After a morning tour of the ghats, the group attends an academic session on spirituality inside the Kashi Vishwanath temple. On their first day, they had already made a trip to this temple as well to the Kalbhairav and Annapurna temples – all part of their itinerary.

Inside the Kashi Vishwanath temple, they are told about Lord Shiva and his different manifestations. The Vice Chancellor of the Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University, Sudha Seshayyan, discusses Lord Shiva's cosmic dance as a symbol of his omnipresence. The Working President of the Kashi Vidwat Parishad, Vashishth Tripathi, says, "Kashi is the source of all knowledge. This is the city that enhanced Adi Shankaracharya's and Ramunajacharya's learnings. When we talk about the confluence of Kashi and Tamil, we mean there is a similarity in their way of life as it is shaped by Sanskrit. But due to political reasons, there is a discriminatory view in different regions. These differences are to such an extent that if we support Hindi, we face stiff opposition from the other side. It is the goal of the Kashi Vidwat Parishad to resolve such confusion. An attempt has now been made."

> The Prime Minister is promoting Tamil culture, whereas the regional parties only want us to believe in the greatness of the Tamil people and create a north-south divide.
>
> **K.V.R. KARTHIK**
> Participant at Kashi Tamil Sangamam

Planning and execution

The Kashi Tamil Sangamam was proposed by the High-Powered Committee for the Promotion of Indian Languages, or Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti, appointed by the Ministry of Education. A concept note was presented to Modi by the Chairperson of the Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti, Chamu Krishna Shastry, at the end of September. A final decision to hold the event was taken on October 20, which gave the organisers less than a month to pull it off. The website for the event says the objective of the programme is to ensure a "holistic" approach to education, as mentioned in the National Education Policy (NEP) of 2020, which includes integration of the "wealth of Indian knowledge systems". This holistic approach, says Shastry, includes four inter-related domains – language, knowledge, art and culture. The Sangamam is a counter to the DMK's stiff opposition to the NEP. (While the NEP promotes a three-language formula including Hindi, Tamil Nadu has a dual language policy of Tamil and English.)

Various ministries of the Government of India worked on this event. Pradhan is known to have instructed district officials and representatives from various government agencies to treat visitors from Tamil Nadu as the "Prime Minister's personal guests". The Prime Minister's Office was also involved in arrangements such as earmarking 10 beds at a local medical college for any emergency. However, the organisers refused to divulge the expenditure incurred for the event.

Many participants have expressed their gratitude to Modi for giving them such "VIP treatment". There is a red carpet rolled out on the platform and the foyer at the Varanasi railway station. Once they arrive, the participants are greeted with garlands and rose petals as chants of 'Har Har Mahadev' ring in the background. Through their train journey too, they say they were greeted in a similar manner at important junctions, and served with refreshments. Police personnel ensure that the participants are protected at the ghats. Personnel from the National Disaster Response Force stand alert on life boats in case of any accident. The participants are served south Indian meals and provided with warm clothing.

The themes for the academic session for the participants include Bharatiyar's Kashi connect for the literature group, Vaishnavite and Shaivite mutts and temples in the two cities for the cultural group, lectures on Shiva for those interested in spirituality, and ancient pedagogical methods and the need to use ancient storytelling forms in modern education for teachers. Those from the heritage group learn, for instance, about the Kallanai dam which runs across the Cauvery river and was built during the reign of the Chola king, Karikalan. The cultural evening includes Bharatanatyam and folk art (such as Karakaattam, Poikkal Kuthirai and Thappaattam) performances, folk music, and bhajans by musicians from Varanasi. Dignitaries at the cultural programmes or those who addressed the Tamil guests include Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Home Minister Amit Shah, Governor of Telangana and Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry Tamilisai Soundararajan, Governor of Tamil Nadu R.N. Ravi, Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran, and *Thuglak* editor S. Gurumurthy.

A Tamil Nadu academic involved in planning the academic sessions says a 'core group' of experts was involved in finalising the themes. A professor at BHU, which, along with IIT Madras, is the knowledge partner for the event, was assigned the task of overseeing the academic sessions. There is confusion in the faculty about the role of the university in conducting the event, says the professor: "We were initially excited about the academic sessions. But it became clear that this isn't just an academic exercise. There is a different agenda. We have only provided the venue and logistical support."

Meanwhile, at an exhibition, books on learning to speak, read and write Tamil are sold out, as many Hindi speakers are keen to learn the language. At the BHU's Department of Indian Languages, there are at least 40 students enrolled for Tamil language courses. Some were drawn to the language after watching Tamil cinema. The Department has also attracted students from Tamil Nadu who are eager to learn Hindi.

The political backdrop

Shastry says, "The inter-mingling of visitors from Tamil Nadu and the locals reveals innate oneness as well as mutual affection despite language barriers. The 100-150-year-old concept of Dravidian identity is just a political narrative. There is no divisiveness in people's hearts. There is all-pervasive oneness." He says people from Kerala are now coming forward to talk about their commonalities with places such as Madhya Pradesh and those from Karnataka are referring to their similarities with Kashmir.

Tamil Nadu, with its anti-Hindi protests and a belief in a distinct Dravidian identity, is seen as an obstacle for the BJP's electoral juggernaut. While the BJP has registered victories in Karnataka, it has not been able to breach the Tamil Nadu fort. Its march towards Tamil Nadu comes at a time when the All-India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) is imploding and the DMK is struggling to shed its "anti-Hindu" image in the face of the BJP's Hindutva push.

"The BJP is trying to rewrite the Tamil cultural narrative shaped by the Dravidian movement that rose in the 1900s and soon became a political movement. And it can't do so without mixing it with religion. The Kashi Tamil Sangamam has parallels in the BJP's Ram Mandir politics. And language is a sacred issue in Tamil Nadu. Since the BJP has no credentials to speak about it, it is again mixing it with religion to draw the Tamils," says Ramu Manivannan, Professor and former head of Department of Political Science and Public Administration at the University of Madras.

But Yuvraj couldn't care less about the politics. He says he has come to have fun. One of his older co-travellers breaks into an impromptu dance during the cultural evening. The performances at BHU are the group's final programme in Varanasi before they leave for Sarnath, Ayodhya and Prayagraj.

From Page One

Bilawal's comments on Modi 'uncivilised': India

"Unfortunately, Pakistan does not seem to have changed much in the treatment of its minorities. It certainly lacks credentials to cast aspersions at India," Mr. Bagchi said.

Mr. Bagchi's comments were echoed by Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi who pointed out that Pakistan's record as a terror-sponsor had led to its inclusion in the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). "If a Foreign Minister of a country is making such a statement, it doesn't hold him well. This is the country which was included in the grey list of FATF several times. The country he represents is incubating terrorism," said Ms. Lekhi. Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur also condemned Mr. Bhutto Zardari's comments.

Two die in firing near Army camp in J&K

A First Information Report (FIR) has been lodged in the case and a probe is under way. "There will be a professional and thorough probe into the incident. Teams will carry out forensic and ballistic investigation and the spot will be inspected. We assure a fair probe," Haseeb Mughal, Deputy Inspector-General, Poonch-Rajouri range, said.

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president Vikar Rasool Wani condemned the incident. "We have demanded a time-bound judicial probe into the killings to fix responsibility," Mr. Wani said.

J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina said he had spoken to senior Army and district officials. "The Army has taken serious cognisance of the incident. The matter will be thoroughly investigated," Mr. Raina said.

'Kashi Tamil Sangamam will unite the country'

Cultural bridge: Home Minister Amit Shah at the valedictory of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam on Friday. TWITTER/KASHI TAMIL SANGAMAM

"Kashi Tamil Sangamam is an attempt to revive the country's cultural unity. Though India has multiple cultures, languages and art forms, its soul is one," Mr. Shah said. He called the event a bridge and an attempt to join languages of not just Kashi (or Varanasi) and Tamil Nadu or south and north, but of the entire country. He likened Prime Minister Narendra Modi with sage Adi Shankaracharya for trying to bring together two great cultures of Kashi and Tamil Nadu.

Mr. Shah also spoke about the National Education Policy, 2020 and said the Prime Minister had ensured that through the medium of education and languages, the country's spiritual pride and the Indian knowledge system found a place on the global stage.

"The soul of the National Education Policy is our languages. That is why Modi *ji* has said mother tongue should be the medium of instruction. Gradually, the NEP has percolated deep down. I appeal once again to Tamil Nadu to impart medical, technical and legal education in Tamil, so that it is further strengthened," said Mr. Shah.

Govt. to act on unregistered child care institutions

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Friday said that all child care institutions have to be compulsorily registered with the district authorities and that they will be asked to shut down if they fail to do so.

In order to ensure the security of children, the district authorities, including the police, have to conduct the background verification of an organisation that seeks to set up a CCI and also run checks on the criminal histories of people being hired there, Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani said in the Lok Sabha.

She said that earlier any organisation that put in an application to establish a CCI would deemed to have received an approval, but with the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, these new regulations have been brought forth. The rules mandate that even the people who are hired in such institutions as caregivers need to have a police verification certificate.

Coordinated effort on to curb Chinese loan apps, says FM

12,903 complaints have been received against digital lending apps and against recovery agents between April 1, 2021 and November 30, 2022

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman informed the Rajya Sabha on Friday that there is a coordinated effort within the government to contain Chinese digital loan apps, and ensure that the common man is not being cheated by them. Action is being initiated against those who are misusing such apps, she added.

Ms. Sitharaman was making a *suo motu* response to Trinamool Congress MP Nadimul Haque who raised the issue of the unethical practices of digital lending apps inflicting financial harm on the economically weaker borrowers of the country.

"The issue that the member has raised about Chinese apps and how common people are being harassed and cheated by some of these apps and, therefore, some action has to be taken up seriously," said the Finance Minister.

> Action from the RBI's side and our side, including the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, has been initiated in this
>
> **NIRMALA SITHARAMAN**
> Finance Minister

"In the last 6-7 months, I have had personal meetings with the representatives of the RBI [Reserve Bank of India] and also with my Secretaries in the Ministry. Action from the RBI's side and our side, including the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, has been initiated in this. A lot of such apps which are badly misusing have also been brought to the attention of MeitY [the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology]. So, there is a coordinated effort to contain such apps and also to take action against those who are misusing them," she said.

Many complaints

Mr. Haque said that there were a huge number of complaints received against banks and Non Banking Financial Companies related to digital lending apps.

According to an answer given in the Lok Sabha, as many as 12,903 complaints have been received against such digital lending apps and against recovery agents under the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, between April 1, 2021 and November 30, 2022.

Linking of Aadhaar and electoral ID is voluntary, says Rijiju

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Over 54 crore of the nearly 95 crore voters have opted to link their Aadhaar details with voter ID

Terming the exercise to link Aadhaar with election photo identity card (EPIC) as 'voluntary,' Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Friday told the Lok Sabha that people who don't link their Aadhaar with EPIC will not be struck off from the voters' list.

In response to another question on whether the government would consider banning opinion polls after the announcement of election schedule, the Law Minister replied in the negative.

Replying to a written question on linking of Aadhaar with EPIC, Mr. Rijiju said, "The Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021, allows electoral registration officers to require the existing or prospective elector to provide the Aadhaar number for the purpose of establishing identity on a voluntary basis."

He was responding to a question by Congress MP Pradyut Bordoloi, BSP's Ritesh Pandey and AIMIM's Syed Imtiaz Jaleel on the linkage of Aadhaar with electoral rolls.

Asked whether the name of the voters whose voter IDs are not linked with Aadhaar will be struck off from the list, the Minister said, "No". However, he made it clear that "there is no provision for withdrawing the consent to share Aadhaar details".

On Thursday, Mr. Rijiju had informed the Rajya Sabha that more than 54 crore of the nearly 95 crore total voters have opted to link their Aadhaar details with voter ID. He said linking of Aadhaar is "process driven" and "no targets have been given" for linking Aadhaar with EPIC.

"The Election Commission does not store the Aadhaar numbers in its database. The Aadhaar number is used only for authentication and EC does not retrieve any personal information from the UIDAI Aadhaar database," Mr. Rijiju noted.

RS sees adjournment as Congress demands debate on Chinese incursion issue

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha faced an adjournment on Friday as the Congress party insisted for a debate on the "Chinese incursion" in Arunachal Pradesh.

On Friday, the party MPs pressed for acceptance of their notices under Rule 267 that sought to set aside the business of the day to take up a debate on the issue, but the Chair did not permit it. The members shouted slogans and later trooped into the well of the House, following which Deputy Chairman Harivansh adjourned the proceedings for 25 minutes.

Earlier, when the House met for the day at 11 a.m., Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge said his party and other opposition parties have been trying to raise a very serious issue of national security.

Questions raised: Congress members protest after trooping into the Well of the Rajya Sabha on Friday. PTI

"For the past few days, members have been trying to raise the matter of Chinese incursion in Arunachal Pradesh. On December 14, I intervened and the Chair told me that I cannot raise the issue since I have not given any notice... Discussions sought by opposition parties are not being allowed," Mr. Kharge said.

Mr. Harivansh, in reply, said allegations should not be levelled against the Chair and cited last week's ruling of Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar expressing inability to accept notices under Rule 267 in the absence of such pleas not specifying the particular rule that was being sought to be set aside. He added that the notices were under consideration of the Chairman.

The reply, however, did not satisfy the opposition MPs, who continued to raise the issue and trooped into the Well of the House, forcing adjournment of proceedings till 12 p.m.

No Supreme Court Benches will be available during winter vacation, says CJI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

This comes a day after Rijiju criticised 'long vacations' of the court and problems they pose for litigants

Chief Justice of India D. Y. Chandrachud said on Friday that no Vacation Benches will be available in the Supreme Court during the winter break.

The oral announcement came a day after Law Minister Kiren Rijiju reportedly criticised the "long vacations" of the court and the inconvenience it caused to litigants.

However, according to a circular issued by the SC on September 29, a senior Supreme Court Registry official is specially deputed as a 'Vacation Officer'. This officer could be approached by any advocate seeking urgent relief either on court holidays or during after-court hours. In such instances, a Bench would be constituted, if required.

Friday is the last working day before the court goes into winter recess. The Supreme Court will reopen only next year, on January 2.

69,598 cases pending

The calendar for the year 2023 shows the court would not be fully functional for nearly 180 days, including weekends and holidays. The court's pendency as on December 1 is 69,598 cases. There are currently six judicial vacancies in the court.

The past year had seen the court come out of hard days of the pandemic and take on the increased pendency. Judges have been hearing 80 cases, on some days, up to 100 cases a day. Many Constitution Benches have reserved their judgments and would use the winter holidays to author them.

Vacation Benches are Special Benches which the Chief Justice of India may designate during summer and winter holidays to hear 'urgent matters', which include pleas concerning bail, habeas corpus and other fundamental rights issues.

Rule 6 of Order II of The Supreme Court Rules, 2013, provide that the "Chief Justice may appoint one or more Judges to hear during summer vacation or winter holidays all matters of an urgent nature which under these rules may be heard by a Judge sitting singly, and, whenever necessary, he may likewise appoint a Division Court for the hearing of urgent cases during the vacation which require to be heard by a Bench of Judges".

Gujarat, A.P. and Himachal to have bulk drug parks

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Three bulk drug parks are being set up in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh in order to help supply raw material for pharmaceutical industries, Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said.

In a reply, the Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers said 13 States had applied for it and the three States were finalised after evaluation. He said the parks would reduce the country's dependence on foreign countries for chemicals used by the pharmaceutical industry. "As of now, we have given ₹300 crore each to the States. They are entitled to get ₹1,000 crore each for setting up the parks," he said.

LS clears Bill to add Himachal's Hattee community in ST list

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha on Friday passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Third Amendment) Bill, 2022 to include the Hattee community in the Trans-Giri region of Sirmaur district in Himachal Pradesh in the Scheduled Tribes list of the State after Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda moved a motion to have the Bill passed.

The Minister moved the motion after his concluding remarks on the discussion on the Bill, which had gone on for two days.

Mr. Munda said the Hattee people of the region had been deprived of the ST status for decades, despite their family members living across the border in Uttarakhand being categorised as such.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has consistently promised in election manifestos to include the Hattee community in the ST list, including in that of the recent Assembly election, where it lost the State to the Indian National Congress (INC).

The Union Cabinet had announced its approval for the addition just weeks before the Himachal Pradesh poll dates were announced. Interestingly, the BJP won three of the five Assembly seats in Sirmaur district this election.

The Bill received support from across party lines during the discussion and was passed in the Lower House through a voice vote.

'1.3 terabyte data encrypted and five servers affected in AIIMS ransomware attack'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

CERT-In did an evaluation after being informed about the incident involving AIIMS

Based on current analysis by stakeholders concerned, about 1.3 terabyte data were encrypted in the recent ransomware attack on the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences' (AIIMS) information technology network by unknown threat actors, according to the government.

In a written response to the question of Rajya Sabha member John Brittas, Minister of State For Electronics And Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Friday said upon being informed about the cybersecurity incident, the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) had done an evaluation.

"As per the analysis, servers were compromised in the information technology network of the AIIMS by unknown threat actors due to improper network segmentation, which caused operational disruption due to non-functionality of critical applications. CERT-In and other stakeholder entities have advised necessary remedial measures," said the reply.

"Based on current analysis by concerned stakeholders, five servers of the AIIMS were affected and approximately 1.3 terabytes of data were encrypted," it said.

Mr. Chandrasekhar said CERT-In, which is mandated to track and monitor cybersecurity incidents in India, had issued a special advisory on security practices to enhance resilience of health sector entities, which had been communicated to the Health Ministry for sensitising health sector entities regarding the latest cybersecurity threats.

Replying to another question, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Bharati Pravin Pawar said all the data for e-Hospital had been retrieved from a backup server and restored on new servers.

Madras HC former CJ maintains silence on CBI exonerating her

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court's former Chief Justice Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani, whose resignation from the coveted post created a furore in 2019, has decided to maintain silence even after the Lok Sabha was informed of the CBI not having found any cognisable offence made out in the reference made against her by the Supreme Court's Secretary-General on September 26, 2019.

When contacted to know her views on the latest development on Wednesday, Justice Tahilramani told *The Hindu*, "So sorry, I have always maintained a 'no comments' policy." She chose not to comment even in 2019 when she resigned following the move to transfer her to Meghalaya. Then she had said: "I do not wish to make any comments or discuss the matter. Kindly excuse me."

Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani

In 2019, the Supreme Court Collegium had recommended her transfer to the Meghalaya High Court "in the interest of better administration of justice."

SC exists to protect personal liberty and rights, says CJI

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud on Friday said the Supreme Court exists to hear every cry for personal liberty and fundamental rights. The main purpose of the court is the "exercise of its jurisdiction as a protector of the fundamental right to life and personal liberty inhering in every citizen," the CJI said in a judgment.

"The history indicates that it is in the seemingly small and routine matters involving grievances of citizens that issues of moment, both in jurisprudential and constitutional terms, emerge.... The right to personal liberty is a precious and inalienable right recognised by the Constitution. In attending to such grievances, the Supreme Court performs a plain constitutional duty, obligation and function," the judgment said.

CJI Chandrachud said the court could not afford to ignore even the faintest plea for personal liberty.

The court was hearing the plea of Iqram, who would spend 18 years in jail for electricity theft

"If we do not act in matters of personal liberty and grant relief then what are we doing here?" the CJI asked in court.

Electricity theft

The court was hearing the plea of a man, Iqram, who would spend a total of 18 years in jail for electricity theft. He was convicted in nine separate cases of electricity theft for a period of two years each. His sentence was ordered to run concurrently. However, the prison authorities treated his sentence in each case to run consecutively, one after the other, for a total of 18 years. The Allahabad High Court had confirmed the view of the jail authorities.

The apex court set aside the High Court judgment and said Iqram's sentence would run concurrently.

'China is expanding model villages in strategic areas'

A new village, spread in two clusters, is coming up near Siliguri corridor; construction of two villages is nearing completion in Churup area opposite to Uttarakhand, according to sources

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

China is expanding its chain of model villages or *Xiaokang* (moderately prosperous) villages close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC), opposite Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh, including in the Chumbi Valley which faces the strategically crucial Siliguri corridor, according to defence sources. This is in addition to continuing its infrastructure development and additional deployments along the LAC.

At Pangda in the Chumbi Valley, where a *Xiaokang* village was set up earlier, a new village is coming up spread in two clusters. "While the presence of vehicles in the main cluster reveals its possible occupation, in the other cluster also there is increased vehicle activity and it is likely to be occupied soon," one source stated, citing intelligence inputs and satellite imagery. In November, land clearing activity was observed close to an existing village about seven kilometres from Bum La, the source stated.

> The PLA patrol had transgressed, which was contested very firmly and resolutely by our forces and led to some physical violence
>
> **LT. GEN R.P. KALITA**
> Eastern Army Commander

Similarly, opposite Uttarakhand, the construction of two such villages in the Churup area, located 11 km from the LAC, is nearing completion. Another model village comprising 35-36 dwellings is under construction in Qangze, about 52 km from the LAC, also opposite the middle sector.

Drawing a connection between the Yangtse face-off and *Xiaokang* villages, former Adjutant General and 14 Corps Commander Lt. Gen. Rakesh Sharma (Retd) said on Twitter, "Did the PLA [People's Liberation Army] troops avail of *Xiaokang* village in proximity as base for build up for clash at Yangtse? This will give the dual-use nature of these 628 villages established all along the LAC. Then these villages are staging areas for build up."

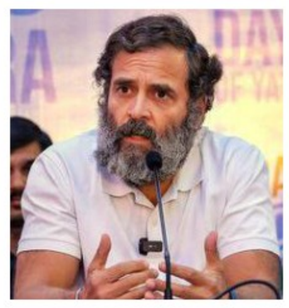
Commenting on the situation at Yangtse, Eastern Army Commander Lt. Gen. R.P. Kalita said on Friday that presently the border areas along the northern frontier are "stable and we are firmly in control."

Speaking on the occasion of Vijay Diwas, commemorating the 1971 liberation war of Bangladesh, Lt. Gen. Kalita said, "It is one of those areas where there is a different perception of the LAC. The PLA patrol had transgressed, which was contested very firmly and resolutely by our forces on ground which led to some amount of physical violence. But it was contained at the local level." Citing intelligence inputs, another source said that, in the last three to four months, a large PLA deployment had been observed around the Tsethang camp, which is south east of Lhasa and about 150 km from the LAC opposite Arunachal Pradesh, facing the Army's 4 Corps area.

Also, a number of tunnels are under construction near the Pangta air field, which are believed to be part of a railway line there, sources said. This is about 160 km from the LAC opposite eastern Arunachal or Rest of Arunachal Pradesh (RALP).

China is preparing for war, but Centre is asleep: Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR



Rahul Gandhi

Days after a clash between Indian and Chinese troops in Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang sector, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said China is preparing for war but the Indian government is "deep in slumber" without realising the gravity of the situation. China's preparations were not just for incursions, but for a full-scale war, Mr. Gandhi said.

Addressing a press conference on the completion of 100 days of Bharat Jodo Yatra, he said while the threat from China was very clear, which he had been pointing out for quite some time, the government was trying to conceal and ignore it. He said China, which occupied 2,000 sq. km of Indian territory and killed 20 Indian soldiers in Galwan in 2020, was now thrashing the jawans in Arunachal Pradesh.

"If you look at China's weapon pattern, it is clear that they are preparing for a full [military] offensive. In contrast, our government is asleep and is not able to accept it," Mr. Gandhi said.

He alleged that the BJP government was working on events rather than dealing with the matter strategically. The Wayanad MP said External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar should expand his understanding about China rather than giving out statements.

With Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot by his side, Mr. Gandhi said there was no indecision on the leadership issue and added that the discussions among the party leaders and workers were a sign of "democratic structure" within the party.

Hooch toll rises to 30; Nitish insists kin of victims won't get any govt. aid

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

Spirited show: BJP legislators staging a protest against the Bihar government over the hooch tragedy, in Patna on Friday. PTI

Asserting that prohibition will continue in Bihar, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday said "no compensation will be given to people who die after drinking spurious liquor".

With the official death toll in the Saran hooch tragedy rising to 30, and villagers claiming that 56 people have died, the National Human Rights Commission has now taken *suo motu* cognisance of the incident and issued notices to higher officials.

Four persons who died in the neighbouring Siwan district are also suspected to be victims of hooch. However, the family members of three of the dead had already cremated them without any post-mortem examination.

Mr. Kumar, however, doubled down in his defence of the State's liquor ban. "Prohibition will continue in Bihar and I've no sympathy with those who drink liquor. No compensation will be given to people who die after drinking," he said.

"We've been making such an appeal for a long time that if you consume liquor, you'll die. And once again I'm going appeal to people that if someone drinks illicit liquor, he will die. I'll also tell them that those who talk in favour of drinking liquor, will not bring any good to you," he said amidst a pandemonium created by Opposition BJP legislators demanding Mr. Kumar's resignation as well as a compensation of ₹10 lakh to the family members of those died.

Senior State BJP leader and Rajya Sabha member Sushil Kumar Modi alleged that the "death toll has gone over 100 and the State government is hiding the actual figure".

Indians to get U.K. visas in 15 days: High Commissioner

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Signalling an end to the problem of delayed processing of the U.K. visas for Indians, British High Commissioner Alex Ellis on Friday announced that travellers from India would get tourist visas within a fortnight.

"Two months ago, I said that our aim was by the end of this year to be turning around visit visas from India to the U.K. within 15 working days. The great news is the team have now achieved that through fantastic work here in Delhi," said Mr. Ellis.

Minister flays ex-RBI chief's 'pessimistic' view on growth rate

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The consensus view of global institutions that India's growth rate will be above 7% next year is a rebuttal to the former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Raghuram Rajan's more pessimistic view of the Indian economy, Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said on Friday.

Addressing a press conference, Mr. Shekhawat said that all major institutions have predicted that the country's growth rate next year would be between 7% and 8%. Mr. Rajan, who had joined Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's *Bharat Jodo Yatra* on Wednesday, said that India would face a difficult year ahead as an economic downturn was looming across the world.

He had observed that the country would be lucky if it grows at 5% next year, the former RBI governor had said. Mr. Shekhawat said only Mr. Rajan could explain the reason behind his pessimistic view of the Indian economy. "All major institutions from RBI to World Bank are saying that India's growth rate next year will be between 7 and 8%," the Minister said.

Teacher held for attacking Class 5 student in New Delhi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A primary school teacher has been arrested for attacking a Class V student with a pair of scissors and then pushing her off the first floor of the government school building, the police said on Friday.

The incident took place at the Nigam Prathmik Balika Vidyalaya at Karol Bagh.

"Geeta Deshwal (26) first bolted the classroom door from inside and started throwing water bottles . She then hit the girl with scissors and then pushed her off the balcony," a senior police officer said.

Govt. tweaks vehicle registration rules

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has allowed the conversion of regular vehicle registrations into Bharat Series (BH) numbers as part of measures to widen the scope of the BH series ecosystem.

In an official statement, the MoRTH said over the course of the implementation of BH series registration mark rules, several representations have been received towards strengthening the BH series ecosystem.

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C),
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Tender Call Notice No. IDCO/H.O./P&C/EST/E-1801/04/2021/ 32585 Dated : 14.12.2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT

1. Name of the Work : Up-gradation of Industrial Estate, Kalunga, Sundargarh, Odisha under Micro & Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP) Scheme.
2. Estimated Cost : Rs.423.51 lakh (Approx.)
3. Period of Completion : 06 (Six) Calendar Months.
4. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid ID/Tender reference No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar.	Bid ID /Tender Reference No. P&C/EST/E-121/2022-23	22.12.2022 at 17.00 Hrs.	06.01.2023 up to 17.00 Hrs.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, www.tendersodisha.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in and www.idco.in.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar

CAD-4145 OIPR-14003/11/0226/2223

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School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada
An Institute of National Importance, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India
Sy. No. 4/4, ITI Road, Vijayawada-520008, Andhra Pradesh, India.

Ref. No.01/SPAV/Dean-A/2022-23/6th Convocation 17th December, 2022

06th CONVOCATION

SPA Vijayawada announces the SIXTH CONVOCATION to be held on 12th January, 2023 for the conferment of degrees for all academic programmes for the batches completing studies in the A.Y. 2021 and 2022. For more details, please visit our website www.spav.ac.in

Sd/- Registrar

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ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE ACADEMIC SESSSION 2022-23

Admission to B.V.Sc & A.H. course of BHU during academic session 2022-23 will be done on the basis of NEET 2022 scores only. Desirous candidates who have appeared in NEET 2022 are informed to register themselves and fill up the online application form on BHU Portal. Course details, Registration Form and other required information will be available on the University's Admission Portal (www.bhuonline.in) w.e.f. 17.12.2022 to 26.12.2022. Last date of receipt of online application form is 26.12.2022.

REGISTRAR

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : KWA/HO/SP/10/2022-23/RFI, KWA - Inviting RFI (Request for Information) to identify prospective firms/vendors, with technical capability, for supply, installation, commissioning, and maintenance of hardware/software/networking etc related to Pre-Paid Smart Water Meters., EMD : Rs. 0, Tender fee : Rs. 0, Last Date for submitting Tender : 07-01-2023 03:00:pm, Phone : 8547638199, Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

Thiruvananthapuram Chief Engineer (HRD & GI.)
KWA-JB-GL-6-1247-2022-23 Jalabhavan

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : SE/PHC/KKD/69 to 80/2022-23, Jal Jeevan Mission –Wayanad, Kozhikode District - Supplying, Laying Distribution system and providing FHTC in Thariyode, Pozhuthana, Kottathara, Vengappally, Thondarnad, Thavinjal, to Panamaram, Kavilumpara Panchayaths -, Construction and commissioning of service reservoirs and pump house, supply, laying and commissioning of gravity and pumping mains, supply and commissioning of clear water pumpsets and 200 KVA transformer and the construction of new road to WTP site in various schemes. EMD : Rs. 1) 200000/- 2-12)500000/- for each, Tender fee : Rs. 1) 11025+ GST 2-12) 16540+GST for each, Last Date for submitting Tender : 07-01-2023 04:00:pm, Phone : 0495 – 2371046
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-1241-2022-23 PH Circle, Kozhikode

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E-TENDER NOTICE: TN-07(RVU2223SLLB01728)

Online Limited tenders are invited from Public Sector General Insurance Companies for Mega Risk Insurance Policy for RVUNL's Power Plants except GLPL, Standalone Terrorism Policy & Public Liability Policy for RVUNL's Power Plants including GLPL and Standard Fire & Special Peril Policy (SF & SP) for only GLPL Power Plant for a period of one year w.e.f 22.03.2023 to 21.03.2024. Tender details are available on websites http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in (for e-tender), www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl & www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.

Raj.samwad/C/22/11805 RVUN/PR-3773 SE (Ins. & T- Cell)

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PWD CIRCLE SIKAR
(डाक बंगला केम्पस सीकर 332001; email : piu_sikar1@rediffmail.com, seskr.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in)
No.:- SE/Sikar/2022/D-3430 Date:- 01.12.2022
Notice Inviting Bid No. 23/2022-23

Bids for 3 (Three Nos) Building and Road Work are invited from interested bidders upto 06:00 PM dated 02.12.2022 to 22.12.2022. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state; and PWD departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 1129.03 Lac
NIB NO. PWD2223A3066
UBN NO. PWD2223WSOB11994, PWD2223WSOB11995, PWD2223WSOB11996

(Mahendra Singh)
Superintending Engineer
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TENDER NOTICE

❖ Appointment of C and F agent for Ollur, Thrissur. ❖ Re-visit the proposal for setting up of 0.3 MTPA Bulk cement Terminal and allied handling and Logistic Hub at CPT complex for MALABAR CEMENTS LIMITED ❖ Supply of Automatic Bag Printing Machine. ❖ Supply of GI Corrugated Sheet ❖ Supply of GI Corrugated and GI Plain ❖ Supply of MS angle ❖Supply of 800MM & 600MM Nilon Conveyor Belt ❖Supply of Filter Bag Pulse Pleats SE803❖ Supply of Lifter Plate ❖ Supply of Special Steel Cord Belt 720MM ❖ Rawmill diaphragm Lining Plate ❖ Retrofitting of Enexco Packer ❖ Supply of Diesel Tanker

Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.malabarcements.co.in Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग वृत्त-दौसा (राज.)
क्रमांक: फा./निविदा/2022-23/4130-4145 दिनांक 06.12.2022
(ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 04/2022-23)

राजस्थान के माननीय मुख्यमंत्री महोदय की ओर से दौसा जिले में (1) देवनारायण बालक छात्रावास खुरीकला, जिला दौसा (2) राजकीय सावित्रि बाई फुले कन्या छात्रावास चौरडी जिला दौसा के भवन निर्माण कार्य मय 5 पाँच वर्ष की डिफेक्ट लाईबिलिटी सहित उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान एवं राज्य सरकार के अन्य विभागों तथा केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के ''ए'' श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से कार्यों हेतु ई-टेण्डरिंग के माध्यम से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में प्राप्त की जावेगी। निविदा से संबंधित विवरण बेवसाईट साईट www.dipronline.org व www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

NIB Code- PWD2223A3116, UBN No. (PWD2223WSOB12250)
UBN No. (PWD2223WSOB12251)

(चन्दनसिंह)
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. वृत्त दौसा

डीआईपीआर/सी/15806/2022

Email:- acezljpr.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER
PWD ZONE-I JAIPUR
PWD Campus, Jacob Road, Infront of Jaipur Club Jaipur (O) 0141-2223525
No.: ACE-I/Zone-I/NIT No. 16/2022-23/D-2205 Date: 09/12/2022

NOTICE INVITING BID

(1) Construction of Gudha Byepass Tehsil Udaipurwati District Jhunjhunu (2) Constrution of Gura Byepass Tehsil Udaipurwati District Jhunjhunu is invited from interested bidders upto 06:00 P.M. dated 14.12.2022 to 12.01.2023. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state; and pwd.rajasthan.gov.in departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 1645.23 lac.
UBN .....

(D.K. AGARWAL)
Additional Chief Engineer
P.W.D. Zone-I Jaipur

S.No.	Distt.	Name of work	UBN No.
1	झुन्झुनु	Construction of Gudha Byepass Tehsil Udaipurwati District Jhunjhunu	PWD2223W-LOB12496
2	झुन्झुनु	Construction of Gura Byepass Tehsil Udaipurwati District Jhunjhunu	PWD2223W-SOB12497

DIPR/C/16020

M. P. PASCHIM KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN Co. Ltd.,
GPH COMPOUND, POLOGROUND, INDORE
(Ph. No: 0731-2426144, 2426111, 2426166)
(Email: - sepurchase06@gmail.com, CIN-U40109MP2002SGC015121)

No. MD/WZ/06/PUR/NIT-282/17404 Indore, dated: 16.12.2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Online tenders are invited for following Turnkey Contracts /materials as per Tender Specification :-

TS No.	Lot No. & Locations	Name of Works	Estimated Cost (inclusive of GST in Rs.Crore)	Online tender opening date
1659	Lot-18 Indore City Circle & Ujjain City Division	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of LT underground cabling works with installation of all required equipment and accessories in Indore City Circle & Ujjain City Division (Lot-18) under the RDSS.	32.47	10.01.2023
1660	-	Fully Automatic Single & Three Phase Meter testing & calibration Benches	11.11	12.01.2023

The Pre-bid meeting for TS-1659 will be held on 30.12.2022. For further detailed information visit web-site http://www.mpwz.mp.gov.in or https://www.mptenders.gov.in

Chief Engineer (Purchase)

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer
(Project) PHED, Ajmer
Qtr. No. II/2, PHED Colony, Vaishali Nagar,
near RIICO Watch Factory, Ph. No. 0145-2640265, Fax No. 0145-2640265,
Email: acepajm.phed@rajasthan.gov.in

S.No. F()ACE/Proj/Aj/AR-JJM (SE-PIU-I)/2022-23/4098-4102
Dated: 12.12.2022

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
FOR WORKS NIT No. 07/2022-23

Bid for "Retrofitting Work for Providing Water Supply through FHTCs in 10 NRVs & 323 Other Habitations of Degana, Nagaur, Bherunda, Riyan & Jayal Blocks of District Nagaur including work of Transmission main, rising mains, Construction of New OHSRs, connecting these new OHSRs with existing and new Rising Mains, Pipeline from OHSRs to VTCs, Internal village distribution network, providing/replacement of transmission Pumps/cluster pumps/ online boosters and Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) including all material and labour, one year defect liability period after completion and thereafter 10 Years O & M of assets on Single point responsibility, Turnkey Percentage Above / Below BSR rate-based contract under Jal Jeevan Mission for Degana, Nagaur, Bherunda, Riyan & Jayal Blocks of District Nagaur (Phase-II, Package-7, CDS-04)" are invited from interested bidders upto 28.12.2022. Other particulars of the Bid may be seen on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state.

"SAVE WATER - SAVE LIFE"

UBN No. : PHE2223WLLB10659
NIB No. : PHE2223A5135
DIPR/C/15998

Additional Chief Engineer (Project)
PHED, Region, Ajmer

INBRIEF

HC allows Hany Babu to undergo cataract surgery

The Bombay High Court on Friday allowed Delhi professor Hany Babu to undergo cataract surgery in a private hospital. He is accused in the Bhima Koregaon caste violence case of 2018. A Division Bench of justices A.S. Gadkari and P.D. Naik said, "He will undergo cataract surgery in the hospital and will also undergo preliminary tests as regards his ailments of knee pain and abdominal pain. A report would be submitted before this court by next date of hearing." The court directed the Superintendent of Taloja Central Jail to shift Mr. Babu to Saifee Hospital by December 19. Mr. Babu was arrested on July 28, 2020 and various documents seized from his residence.

CUET-UG to be conducted from May 21 next year

The second edition of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET)-UG will be conducted from May 21 to May 31 next year, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced on Friday. The undergraduate admission process in universities will be completed by July 2023 and the new academic session will begin on August 1, 2023. The UGC in March last year, announced that undergraduate admissions would be conducted in all Central universities through a common entrance test, and not on the basis of Class 12 marks. According to UGC Chairman M. Jagadesh Kumar, the application process for the CUET-UG would start in the first week of February 2023. PTI

Two former French Embassy officials booked for visa fraud

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against six Indian nationals, including two former employees of the Embassy of France in Delhi, and others for their alleged role in a visa fraud racket. Most of the suspected beneficiaries are from Punjab. Among those named in the first information report (FIR) are Shubham Shokeen and Aarti Mandal, who earlier worked as Local Law Officers (LLOs) with the French Embassy's visa department. According to the CBI, Mr. Shokeen and Ms. Mandal conspired with the others to commit visa fraud from January to May 6, 2022.

NIA files chargesheet in Umesh Kolhe murder case

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday filed its chargesheet in connection with the murder of Amravati-based chemist who supported the statements made in May by suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma on Prophet Muhammed. Umesh Kolhe, 54, was killed on June 21, 2022 at Amravati by two motorcycle-borne men. On July 2, the Maharashtra Police arrested seven people before the case was taken over by the NIA. The Central agency on July 6 conducted raids at 13 locations across Maharashtra in connection with Kolhe's murder. It is reported to have recovered incriminating materials, including pamphlets spreading hate messages, knives and SIM cards.

PM emphasises need for peace, dialogue in phone call with Putin

The leaders discuss investment, agriculture, energy, transport and defence cooperation as part of bilateral ties between India and Russia

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday held a telephone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin and reiterated the requirement for "peace and diplomacy" to tide over the crisis in Ukraine.

"Following up on their meeting in Samarkand on the sidelines of the SCO [Shanghai Cooperation Organisation] Summit, the two leaders reviewed several aspects of the bilateral relationship, including energy cooperation, trade and investments, defence and security cooperation. In the context of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, Prime Minister reiterated his call for dialogue and diplomacy as the only way forward," stated an official press note issued by Delhi after the telephone conversation between the two leaders.

A readout of the interaction given by the Russian side stated that President Putin gave "fundamental assessments of Russia's line" on the war in Ukraine after being requested by Mr. Modi.

Friendly talks: Narendra Modi (right) greets Vladimir Putin before a meeting at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on December 7. AFP

The Russian side informed that the two leaders discussed multiple issues, including "mutual investment" and areas such as energy cooperation, agriculture, transport and logistics.

The phone call has come days after speculation began about Mr. Modi not travelling to Moscow for the annual summit with Russia. President Putin had visited Delhi on December 6, 2021, for the annual summit and it was the turn of Mr. Modi to travel to Moscow. A diplomatic source said "not a word" was discussed about the annual summit by the two leaders but the Russian President's press secretary Dmitry Peskov had said earlier that "no contacts (summits)" were planned this year.

India-Russia relations have received a great deal of Western attention in 2022, especially after Russia emerged as the topmost supplier of energy to India in the backdrop of the war in Ukraine. The Russian readout, however, indicated that the cooperation in that direction is expected to strengthen in the coming months.

The two leaders also discussed "close coordination" regarding the Indian presidency of G-20 and the upcoming chairship of India at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

2,500-year-old puzzle solved by Indian student

Press Trust of India
LONDON

A grammatical problem that has defeated Sanskrit scholars since the 5th Century BC has finally been solved by an Indian PhD student at the University of Cambridge, it emerged as his thesis was published on Thursday.

Rishi Rajpopat made the breakthrough by decoding a rule taught by Panini, known as the father of linguistics, and is now encapsulated in his thesis entitled 'In Panini, We Trust: Discovering the Algorithm for Rule Conflict Resolution in the Astadhyayi'.

According to the university, leading Sanskrit experts have described Mr. Rajpopat's discovery as "revolutionary" and it could now mean that Panini's grammar can also be taught to computers for the first time.

"I had a eureka moment in Cambridge," recalls Mr. Rajpopat.

"After nine months of trying to crack this problem, I was almost ready to quit, I was getting nowhere. So, I closed the books for a month and just enjoyed the summer, swimming, cycling, cooking, praying and meditating. Then, begrudgingly I went back to work, and within minutes as I turned the pages, these patterns started emerging, and it all started to make sense. There was a lot more work to do but I'd found the biggest part of the puzzle," said the 27-year-old scholar.

Rishi Rajpopat

Over the next few weeks, he was so excited that he couldn't sleep and would spend hours in the library.

"Panini had an extraordinary mind and he built a machine unrivalled in human history. He didn't expect us to add new ideas to his rules. The more we fiddle with Panini's grammar, the more it eludes us," says Mr. Rajpopat.

The 2,500-year-old algorithm decoded by him makes it possible, for the first time, to accurately use Panini's so-called "language machine".

Mr. Rajpopat's discovery makes it possible to "derive" any Sanskrit word, to construct millions of grammatically correct words, using Panini's revered language machine, which is considered to be one of the greatest intellectual achievements in history.

India likely to post highest percentage rise in coal use

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India is projected to add the largest percentage increase in coal use in the coming year globally ahead of China and the European Union, a report by the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Friday.

India is expected to increase use by 7% over the previous year, or about 70 million tonnes (Mt), followed by the European Union (+6%/+29 Mt) and China (+0.4%/+18 Mt). While coal-fired power generation in China and India is rising to keep pace with stronger demand, several European countries have been temporarily switching to coal due to record high prices for natural gas, low hydropower generation, and maintenance-related closures at nuclear plants, according to 'Coal 2022', the IEA's annual report on coal trends.

Bad news for planet

Even though global coal demand is set to increase marginally by 1.2% from the previous year in 2022, it would be enough to push it to an all-time high – about 8 billion tonne in a single year and a record since 2013 – amid the energy crisis. This doesn't spell good news for the planet especially in the light of international climate change agreements.

Tarn Taran RPG attack: police nab perpetrators

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Police on Friday claimed to have solved the Tarn Taran rocket propelled grenade (RPG) attack case with the busting of a foreign-controlled terrorist module leading to the arrest of six persons, including the two juveniles in conflict with law, who had carried out the terror attack at Sarhali police station, on December 9.

The police have recovered three pistols, one hand-grenade, and one motorcycle from the possession of the arrested persons. The 70 mm calibre RPG-26 crime weapon had already been recovered on December 10.

Veteran journalist Bill Kirkman passes away

Narayan Lakshman

Bill Kirkman, a long-time U.K.-based columnist of *The Hindu*, a former Africa and Commonwealth correspondent for *The Times* newspaper, and an Emeritus Fellow of Wolfson College Cambridge, passed away on November 25 after a brief illness.

His 20-year association with *The Hindu* began in 1994, with the launch of 'Cambridge Letters', a weekly column that over time enthralled readers and won him a passionate following. The affable, curious, and warm-hearted writer that he was, Mr. Kirkman corresponded with many of his readers over the years, even visiting their homes during his travels across India.

Mr. Kirkman was born in Samastipur, India, in 1932, the start of a lifelong connection with the country that went through tumultuous changes – social and political – by the time he returned at the age of 55. After his school years in the United Kingdom, Mr. Kirkman attended Oriel College, Oxford, where he studied modern languages.

Tireless reporter

He began his journalistic career as a graduate editorial trainee at the *Wolverhampton Express & Star*, moving to *The Times* in 1957. At *The Times*, through the 1950s and 1960s, he made a name for himself as an intrepid and tireless reporter, serving as the paper's Africa Correspondent and Commonwealth Staff Correspondent, covering the period of rapid de-colonisation.

During that stint, he came to know many of the African political leaders of the day, including Kenneth Kaunda, who had been the first President of Zambia and who later visited Cambridge for a conference and was hosted there by Mr. Kirkman.

Bill Kirkman

Mr. Kirkman left *The Times* in 1964, returning to Oxford as a careers adviser. His book, *Unscrambling an Empire: A Critique of British Colonial Policy 1956-1966,* was published by Chatto & Windus in 1965. In 1968, he moved to Cambridge as the Director of the University Careers Service and remained in that post till 1992. During that time, he transformed the way in which it operated, including encouraging the Cambridge service to look outward internationally.

He undertook a comparative study of careers advice in France, Germany, and the Netherlands, and visiting China and Japan to assess opportunities for U.K. graduates.

In 2005, the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services gave him one of the first five lifetime achievement awards.

Mr. Kirkman became a Fellow of Wolfson College at Cambridge University, where he was also Vice-President from 1980 to 1984. He was responsible for the establishment of the Wolfson College Press Fellowship in 1982, a programme that has brought innumerable journalists from across the world to the college to explore a suitable research subject and engage with the rich academic traditions of the University.

Several journalists of *The Hindu* joined the programme over the years.

Although he had a wide-ranging career, by temperament and instinct Mr. Kirkman was always a journalist. He wrote for many newspapers and journals during his career of more than 60 years, and greatly enjoyed broadcasting too.

He explained his professional interests with his usual sparkling wit: 'I have always liked the sound of my own voice.'

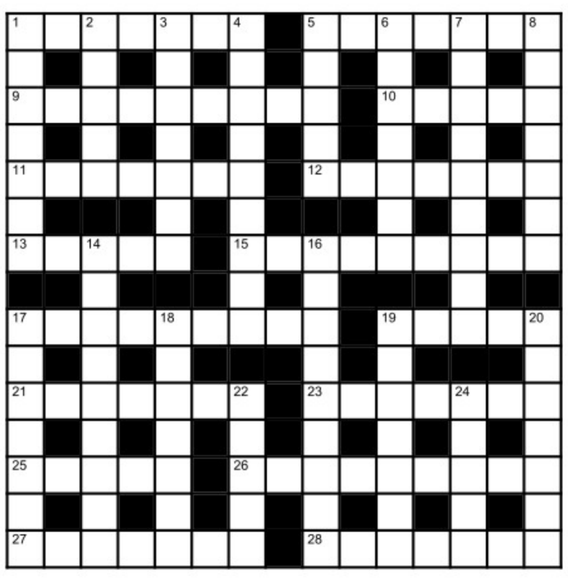
Mr. Kirkman is survived by his wife Anne, two sons, a daughter, and seven grandchildren.

TH CROSSWORD + 13739

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Finally almost got electronic (second) map books (7)
5 World body's back supporting companies at Thailand offering palm, say (7)
9 Taping call going over Spain's bond (9)
10 View of fireplace remains same if one is one (5)
11 Town house given to company (7)
12 Crooked carpenters ran off with relation (7)
13 Look CSK somehow engages (5)
15 Reported it's cloudy in our country with temperature ebbing, primarily down (9)
17 Network usage goes to dogs adopting Gujarati primarily and dialects (9)
19 Condition of jockey... (5)
21 ...say, horses is painful over a month at Sweden (7)
23 Sleeps at store, tiresome holding on (7)
25 Old artwork is bonus (5)
26 Identifying LA engineer and students in group (9)
27 Commercial post small news section in El Salvador? It's a pain (7)
28 Could be infinit (7)

Down

1 A Republican challenger is coming... (7)
2 ...LA liberal overcomes officer in charge with resident (5)
3 Shouts to get a small paste with sulphur (7)
4 At the end of rains, association group was trembling (9)
5 Racing car crashed, narc killed in smoke (5)
6 Brilliant lesson. I see (7)
7 Unappreciated North chose to allow entry for German (9)
8 Dealt with Thailand rot with Communists outside (7)
14 Involved criminal's sibling to exchange dinar for rupees (9)
16 Advantageous for, say, NRI crowd to donate billions (9)
17 Lucky engineers and doctors enjoy rare success from the beginning as pioneers (7)
18 Uninformed Anu returned article (7)
19 Disturbed that Mouse Story didn't have a decent opening (7)
20 On indication, at the beginning of slump, quits (7)
22 Special make southern fabrics (5)
24 Right lane left out in rally (5)

SUDOKU

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	4		7					
		7		1	6			
5		4		2			9	
		3	5		9	2		
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			6	9		7		
					8		4	
	9	5	2		7			

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

No.SS5651 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

	S	A	M	B	A		H	A	R	P	O	O	N	S
S		P		A		T		V		O		U		C
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U		T		B		N		S		F		R		R
D	O	O	D	L	E	D		T	R	A	D	E	R	S
Y		S		E		R		A		R				E
	N	A	T	U	R	A	L	N	U	M	B	E	R	S
E		U						A				L		E
S	E	R	V	I	C	E	C	H	A	R	G	E	S	
U				M		L		O		E		G		A
R	A	T	R	A	C	E		M	U	G	G	I	N	G
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E	G	O		E	V	A	N	G	E	L	I	C	A	L
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T	A	L	L	Y	M	E	N		U	R	A	L	S	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	1	7	9	5	8	6	3	4
3	4	9	6	1	7	5	8	2
8	5	6	4	2	3	7	9	1
4	7	3	2	9	5	1	6	8
6	8	5	7	3	1	4	2	9
1	9	2	8	4	6	3	5	7
5	2	4	1	6	9	8	7	3
7	6	1	3	8	2	9	4	5
9	3	8	5	7	4	2	1	6

FAITH

Naichyanusandhana

Parasara Bhatta begins his eulogy of Goddess Mahalakshmi by confessing his inability to praise Her. In sloka five, he wonders how he can do it when Brahma and great sages have expressed their inability to do so. This is Naichyanusandhana, an attitude of speaking poorly of oneself, elaborated Thenthirupperai Aravindalochanan in a discourse.

Parasara Bhatta continues with his naichyanusandhana, in a different way, in sloka six. Having said in sloka five, that he is unfit to praise Mahalakshmi, he now says he is the most fit person to praise Her! Master logician that he is, he now argues in sloka six the exact opposite of what he had argued in the previous sloka. In sloka six, he offers convincing arguments for his conclusion that he is the best person to praise Her. A poet is considered a capable one, only when he is able to do full justice to all the qualities of the person he is praising. Goddess Mahalakshmi has qualities like kshanthi (forbearance), audharyam (generosity) and daya (compassion). These qualities will become evident once She accepts Bhatta's praises. His words are bound to be of poor quality. By accepting his praises, She will be showing to the whole world how generous She is, how tolerant she is and how kind She is.

A brilliant student will do well in an examination, even if he has a poor teacher. So, there is little sense in a teacher boasting about such a student's achievement, for his role in the student's success is limited. But if a teacher helps a mediocre student improve academically, then that is a matter of pride for the teacher. This is the kind of argument Bhatta is putting forth in sloka six.

MALAYSIA

19 persons killed, 14 missing in Malaysia campsite landslide

AP

Nineteen people, including four children, were killed when a landslide struck a campsite at a Malaysian farm on Friday, officials said, with rescue activity still on. Two of the victims were "believed to be a mother and her child in a state of embrace buried under the earth", an official said, adding that 14 people were still missing. AFP

BEIJING

China orders its rural hospitals to prepare for migrants' return

AP

China ordered rural areas to prepare for the return of migrant workers this holiday season in hopes of preventing a major surge in COVID-19 cases in communities with limited medical resources. Returnees must wear masks and avoid contact with elderly people and village committees must monitor their movements, it said. AP

LIMA

Judge orders 18-month jail term for Peru's ousted President Castillo

AFP

A Peruvian judge ordered ousted President Pedro Castillo to remain in custody for 18 months as nationwide protests set off by the political crisis showed no signs of abating and the death toll rose to at least 14. The ruling came after Congress stripped Mr. Castillo of the privilege that grants impunity to Peru's Presidents. AP

THE HAGUE

Kosovo court jails rebel leader in its first war crimes judgement

AP

A special Kosovo court in The Hague issued its first ever war crimes verdict on Friday, sentencing a former rebel commander to 26 years in jail. Salih Mustafa was convicted of murder, torture and arbitrary detention during the ethnic Albanian Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA)'s 1998-1999 bloody independence war with Serbia. AFP

Japan shakes up its defence policy, warns of China threat

Government has vowed to increase defence spending to 2% of GDP by 2027, reshape its military command, and acquire new missiles that can strike far-flung enemy launch sites

Agence France-Presse
TOKYO

Japan's government approved a major defence policy overhaul on Friday, including a significant spending hike, as it warned China poses the "greatest strategic challenge ever" to its security.

In its largest defence shake-up in decades, Japan vowed to increase security spending to 2% of GDP by 2027, reshape its military command, and acquire new missiles that can strike far-flung enemy launch sites.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told a news conference he was "determined to remain resolute in our mission to protect and defend the nation and its people, at this turning point in history".

Arsenal revamp: The new policy will fund projects including the acquisition of what Japan calls 'counterstrike capacity'. AP

"In our neighbouring countries and regions, the strengthening of nuclear missile capabilities, rapid military build-up and attempts to unilaterally change the status quo by force have become even more pronounced," he said, evoking Russia's invasion of Ukraine as an example of the changing times.

Polls suggest Japan's public largely backs the shift, but the changes could still be controversial because Japan's post-war Constitution does not officially recognise the military and limits it to nominally self-defensive capabilities.

The moves are outlined in three defence and security documents approved by the cabinet on Friday.

They describe Beijing as "the greatest strategic challenge ever to securing the peace and stability of Japan", as well as a "serious concern" for Japan and the international community.

China sends ships into Pacific amid Japan's moves

Associated Press
BEIJING

A squadron of Chinese Navy ships sailed through straits near Japan into the Western Pacific this week, while Beijing on Friday blasted Tokyo's adoption of a new national security strategy putting itself on a more offensive footing.

The destroyers *Lhasa* and *Kaifeng*, and a replenishment ship, sailed through the Osumi Strait while a Dongdiao-class surveillance ship sailed through the Miyako Strait.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin reiterated accusations Japan was "ignoring facts, deviating from the common understandings between the two countries."

Russia fires missile barrage at Ukraine energy network

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

A fresh barrage of deadly Russian strikes battered Ukraine on Friday, cutting water and electricity in major cities and piling pressure on the grid in subzero temperatures.

Kyiv residents in winter coats crammed into underground metro stations as air raid sirens rang out and Russian forces fired off dozens of missiles in one of the biggest broadsides targeting the Ukrainian capital since February.

Kyiv's Mayor said water supplies were disrupted in a wave of nationwide attacks that also killed two in President Volodymyr Zelensky's hometown in the south.

Ukraine's second largest city Kharkiv, near the border with Russia, was left without electricity, its Mayor said. "I woke up, I saw a rocket in the sky," Kyiv resident 25-year-old Lada Korovai said. "I saw it and understood that I have to go to the tube."

Keeping watch: Ukrainian soldiers with the remains of a rocket that was shot down after a Russian attack in Kyiv on Friday. AP

The onslaught is the latest of several waves of strikes targeting key infrastructure that began in October after a series of battlefield defeats for Russia.

The central cities of Poltava and Kremenchuk were also without power and regional officials in Kryvyi Rig, where Mr. Zelensky was born, said rockets hit a residential building.

Sri Lanka to probe the mysterious death of businessman

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of Sri Lanka police on Friday began a probe into the death of a well-known Colombo-based businessman, apparently attacked and abandoned in mysterious circumstances.

The incident, which has shaken many in Sri Lanka, came to light late on Thursday when Dinesh Schaffter, a noted business leader and former cricket administrator, was found seriously injured and tied to his car seat, on the premises of a cemetery at the heart of Colombo. Local media reports said he was rushed to the hospital, where he died hours later.

Sri Lankan news portal *Economy Next* reported that criminal investigators questioned "a former cricket commentator and media personality" in connection with Schaffter's death, even as they pursue multiple lines of inquiry. Some media reports pointed to a pending case, earlier filed by Schaffter, against a debtor who reportedly owed him a huge sum of money.

Court order

Later on Friday, the Colombo Magistrate Court issued an order preventing Sri Lankan cricket commentator Brian Thomas from leaving the country, in connection with the ongoing investigation

Dinesh Schaffter is the son of Chandra Schaffter, a pioneer in Sri Lanka's insurance sector, a former first-class cricketer, and a former general secretary of the Tamil Progressive Alliance (TPA), a prominent political group of Malaiyaha [hill country] Tamils that is currently in Opposition.

Twitter suspends journalists who wrote about Musk

Associated Press

Twitter suspended the accounts of several journalists who cover the social media platform, the latest battle over what can and cannot be said on the site since billionaire Elon Musk took control of it.

Accounts of reporters with *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *CNN*, *Voice of America*, and other publications, went dark on Thursday.

The company hasn't explained to the journalists why it took down the accounts and made their profiles and past tweets disappear. But Mr. Musk took to Twitter on Thursday night to accuse journalists of sharing private information about his whereabouts that he described as "basically assassination coordinates." He provided no evidence for that claim.

The sudden suspension of news reporters followed Mr. Musk's decision on Wednesday to permanently ban an account that automatically tracked the flights of his private jet using publicly available data. That also led Twitter to change its rules for all users to prohibit the sharing of another person's current location without their consent.

Mastodon account

The official account for Mastodon, a decentralised social network billed as an alternative to Twitter, was also banned. The reason was unclear, though it had tweeted about the jet tracking account.

"Same doxxing rules apply to 'journalists' as to everyone else," Mr. Musk tweeted on Thursday.

"Doxxing" refers to disclosing online someone's identity, address, or other personal details.

South Africa's ANC party to open key conference amid scandal

Associated Press
JOHANNESBURG

South Africa's ruling African National Congress party is to start its crucial national conference amid scandal and bitter divisions.

The conference opening in Johannesburg on Friday will elect the party's leadership and adopt policies for governing the country. President Cyril Ramaphosa is seeking re-election as the party's leader at the national conference.

Cyril Ramaphosa

More than 4,000 delegates from across South Africa have gathered in Johannesburg for the five-day conference.

While much focus will be on the election of the party's leader and the ANC's top five leadership positions, 80 members of the party's National Executive Committee will also be elected.

Key policy issues will be debated by delegates during commission sessions that will be closed to the media.

However, debates on these policies are expected to be overshadowed by the factional battles within the ANC which will see Mr. Ramaphosa challenged by his political rivals.

Indian-origin nurse and two children dead in the U.K.

Press Trust of India
LONDON

An Indian-origin nurse from Kerala and her two young children have died after being found with serious injuries at their home in the Northampton region of eastern England, the local police said as they launched an investigation.

A 52-year-old man has since been arrested on suspicion of murder in connection with the incident.

INBRIEF

Wheat sowing rises 3% this season on 286.5 lakh hectares

Wheat acreage has increased 3% so far in the ongoing rabi season at 286.5 lakh hectares mainly on higher sowing area in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, government data showed. The area under coverage for wheat, which is the major crop in rabi (winter-sown) season, stood at 278.25 lakh hectares in the same period last year. Sowing of rabi crops starts from October. PTI

SJK Innovations to install conveyor at Bengal land port

Coimbatore-based SJK Innovations said it would install cross-dock material handling conveyors for a land port in West Bengal. MD Suraj Shantakumar said the company had bagged an order from the Landports Authority of India to set up a cross-dock material handling conveyor system for goods movement at Petrapole near the India-Bangladesh border. The company had orders for intelligent tray retrieval systems at the Adani Lucknow International Airport and Delhi International Airport Terminal 1, he said.

WNS buys two procurement platform firms for $157 million

WNS (Holdings) Ltd. said it had acquired The Smart Cube, a platform-driven research and analytics firm focussed on procurement and supply chains, and OptiBuy, a provider of procurement platform consulting and implementation solutions in Europe for $156.9 million to help enhance its digital analytics and procurement capabilities. "These assets are complementary to WNS's existing offerings and strengthen [its] capabilities in both high-end procurement and advanced analytics," WNS said.

Crude oil imports rose 52.6% to $147 bn in April-November

Commerce Ministry data shows coal and coke imports almost doubled in the period to $37.25 bn; in exports, shipments of petroleum grew by 58.9% to $62.65 bn, gems & jewellery increased by 2%

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India's imports of crude oil rose by 52.6% to $146.57 billion during April-November period, according to Commerce Ministry data.

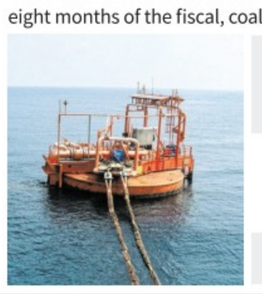
Coal and coke imports increased by 97.7% to $37.25 billion in the same period, the data showed.

Gold imports, however, dipped by 18.1% to $27.21 billion during the eight-month period.

Oher products which recorded double digit growth in imports include electronics, chemicals, transport equipment and vegetable oil. Vegetable oil imports rose by 16.7% to $14.28 billion.

Energy appetite

Trade data shows while crude oil imports surged 52.6% in the first eight months of the fiscal, coal and coke imports jumped 97.7%



- Gold imports fell by 18.1% to $27.21 billion, while electronics, chemicals and vegetable oil posted double-digit growth
- Exports of engineering goods, plastics and cotton yarn/fabrics/made-ups logged negative growth of -2%, -9.66% and -25.8%
- India's trade deficit widened in November to $23.89 billion

In exports, sectors which recorded negative growth in the period include engineering goods (-2%), cotton yarn/fabrics/made-ups (-25.8%) and plastic (-9.66%).

Petroleum exports grew by 58.9% to $62.65 billion, while gems and jewellery shipments increased by 2% to $26.45 billion.

India's exports posted marginal growth of 0.59% to $31.99 billion in November, even as the trade deficit widened to $23.89 billion during the month.

Briefing reporters on trade data, Additional Secretary in the Commerce Ministry L. Satya Srinivas said the government was regularly monitoring the export performance.

Government cuts windfall tax on crude oil output

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Centre slashed the windfall profit tax levied on domestically-produced crude oil as well as on export of diesel and ATF, following a decline in global oil prices, according to an official order.

The levy on crude oil output by companies has been cut to ₹1,700 per tonne from ₹4,900, according to the order.

The government has also cut the tax on export of diesel to ₹5 per litre from ₹8; and on overseas shipments of ATF to ₹1.5 a litre from ₹5. The rates take effect on December 16.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	%CHANGE
Sensex	61,338	-0.75
US Dollar	82.75	0.01
Gold	54,222	-0.60
Brent oil	78.61	-4.25

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3980.80	-62.95
Adani Ports	860.45	-23.50
Apollo Hosp	4565.15	-77.75
Asian Paints	3055.90	-74.70
Axis Bank	935.10	-3.05
Bajaj Auto	3549.60	-69.70
Bajaj Finserv	1587.10	-17.80
Bajaj Finance	6596.90	-28.50
Bharti Airtel	822.75	-3.60
BPCL	341.75	-7.40
Britannia Ind	4444.70	-20.75
Cipla	1089.40	-12.40
Coal India	224.65	-3.55
Divis Lab	3326.90	-38.55
Dr Reddys Lab	4309.10	-159.85
Eicher Motors	3291.45	-12.05
Grasim Ind	1756.35	-30.55
HCL Tech	1029.65	-12.70
HDFC	2667.45	-4.90
HDFC Bank	1639.65	7.85
HDFC Life	575.20	-5.00
Hero MotoCorp	2724.85	-46.00
Hindalco	456.75	-4.25
Hind Unilever	2671.30	8.05
ICICI Bank	902.00	-6.80
IndusInd Bank	1229.55	-10.05
Infosys	1522.20	-18.30
ITC	335.10	-3.75
JSW Steel	743.45	0.10
Kotak Bank	1840.55	-22.65
L&T	2175.00	-2.55
M&M	1251.60	-35.35
Maruti Suzuki	8485.80	-98.35
NestleIndia	19738.70	0.85
NTPC	169.80	-2.30
ONGC	147.20	-0.25
PowerGrid Corp	213.20	-3.15
Reliance Ind	2565.60	-12.75
SBI Life	1254.15	-19.35
State Bank	603.35	-12.60
Sun Pharma	993.65	-8.55
TataConsumerProduct	801.55	-3.35
Tata Motors	421.60	4.90
Tata Steel	111.05	0.10
TCS	3240.25	-64.85
Tech Mahindra	1020.80	-1.95
Titan	2482.85	-39.85
UltraTech Cement	7014.10	-99.80
UPL	770.45	-0.30
Wipro	389.75	-5.45

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 16

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.67	82.99
Euro	87.82	88.16
British Pound	100.55	100.95
Japanese Yen (100)	60.25	60.50
Chinese Yuan	11.86	11.90
Swiss Franc	88.83	89.18
Singapore Dollar	60.87	61.12
Canadian Dollar	60.43	60.67
Malaysian Ringitt	18.67	18.77
Australian Dollar	55.27	55.48

Source:Indian Bank

'Lower commodity prices to help narrow trade deficit, aid rupee'

Reuters
MUMBAI

Trade deficit, lowest since May, narrowed to $23.9 bn in Nov. from $26.9 bn in the previous month

The fall in commodity prices could help narrow India's trade deficit in the coming months, aiding the rupee, analysts said on Friday. The trade deficit narrowed to $23.9 billion in November from $26.9 billion in the previous month, data released on Thursday showed. It was the lowest deficit reading since May.

On a month-on-month basis, exports expanded by 7.4% in November, while imports retreated 1.4%, helping narrow the trade deficit, Barclays Bank said in a note. "The fall in imports remains a key emerging trend," Rahul Bajoria, chief India economist at Barclays Bank, wrote.

Imports fell to their lowest level in 10 months in November, on lower international commodity prices and weaker domestic demand, Mr. Bajoria said.

"We expect this trend to continue and any further decline in commodity prices will only help in a faster consolidation of imports, providing more support to the exchange rate."

Lower commodity prices, especially oil, bode well for India's import bill, reducing the burden on trade deficit, said Swati Arora, economist at HDFC Bank. "This will eventually be positive for the rupee."

If India's economy continues to outgrow most of its key trading partners, then trade deficit could continue to remain "somewhat elevated," Vivek Kumar, economist at QuantEco Research, said.

Rupee settlement options draw interest from 4 more nations

Reuters

India's rupee trade settlement mechanism, a means of using rupees instead of dollars and other currencies for international transactions, is attracting interest from more countries.

Tajikistan, Cuba, Luxembourg and Sudan have begun talking to India about using the mechanism, according to two sources and an official document reviewed by Reuters. It has already been used by Russia following the imposition of sanctions on Moscow over the Ukraine war. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) set up the mechanism in July. The Centre is looking to bring countries short of dollars into the mechanism, said a government official and an industry source aware of the development.

The four nations have shown interest in opening special rupee, or vostro, accounts, but partner banks in India have not yet provided the facilities, documents showed. Opening these accounts needs Reserve Bank approval.

Maiden Pharma seeks to reopen plant after govt. 'clean chit'

Reuters
NEW DELHI

Maiden Pharmaceuticals Ltd. said on Friday it will seek to reopen its main factory after India's main drugs officer said test samples of cough syrups that had been linked to deaths in Gambia showed they had not been contaminated and met with government standards.

The plant was closed after the World Health Organisation said in October that its investigators had found "unacceptable" levels of diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol, which can be toxic and lead to acute kidney injury, in the products. It linked the products to the deaths of 69 children.

But India this week told the WHO that tests of samples from the same batches of syrups sent to Gambia were compliant with government specifications.

The results have been sent to a health ministry panel of experts for further action. The WHO has not responded to a Reuters' request for comment.

Hyundai, VW to raise prices across models from January

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Hyundai Motor India Ltd. (HMIL) and Volkswagen Passenger Cars India said they will raise prices across models from January due to rising input costs.

HMIL said it would continue to make consistent internal efforts to minimise the price impact on customers. Volkswagen said it had been absorbing a significant portion of the rising input costs and the price rise would partially offset the impact.

Texprocil to brand cotton using 'Kasturi' label from this season

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (Texprocil) has said it will start branding and labelling of Indian cotton under the 'Kasturi' brand from the current season. Texprocil and the Cotton Corporation of India had signed an MoU to this effect.

The end customer can get the complete traceability details on a blockchain-based software platform and also via QR code, Texprocil chairman Sunil Patwari said. Texprocil ED Siddhartha Rajagopal said 'Kasturi' would be a specifications-based branding and benchmarked to international standards.

Farmers, traders and spinners could apply to get the cotton tested for 'Kasturi' branding, he said.

Apparel exports rose 11.7% in Nov., says AEPC

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Apparel exports in November rose by 11.7% to about $1.2 billion after declining for the last few months amid global challenges, the Apparel Export Promotion Council said on Friday.

AEPC chairman Naren Goenka said that exports of ready-made garments witnessed a rough patch since traditional markets such as the U.K., EU and the U.S. had been witnessing recession and global headwinds leading to falling demand.

'Textile exports face crisis as consumers lower spending'

Reuters
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

India's $200-billion textile and apparel industry is facing a crisis as consumers in the U.S., Europe and other big markets have cut spending on clothing following a surge in inflation after the war in Ukraine, industry officials said.

While the overall economy is relatively strong, the textile sector is a notable exception and orders suggest the downturn will continue well into 2023, raising the risk of layoffs in an sector that employs more than 45 million people.

Exports, which constitute about 22% of the industry, have fallen for five months in a row – declining over 15% year-on-year in November to $3.1 billion.

Domestic sales are sluggish despite strong growth in the overall economy because of high costs and cheap imported garments, manufacturers said. Local textile factories are now cutting output – contributing to a 4.3% contraction in manufacturing output in July-September.

Sport

All set for an exciting PKL final

Sports Bureau

The final of the ninth edition of the Pro Kabaddi League will witness a mouth-watering clash between Jaipur Pink Panthers and Puneri Paltan in Mumbai on Saturday.

Panthers finished on top in the league stage, but lost both matches Paltan in the league. The Jaipur side, which has not reached the final since 2016, will hope to get it right against Pune in the summit clash.

Paltan will figure in their maiden final and inspirational captain Fazel Atrachali is all set to lead his young army one last time.

"I have motivated the youngsters throughout the season. I have to do it for one more hour," said Fazal.

It's King Louis vs Shamrock in the Wolf 777 Bangalore 2000 Guineas

BENGALURU: King Louis and Shamrock may fight out the finish of the Wolf 777 Bangalore 2000 Guineas (1,600m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Saturday (Dec. 17).

There will be no false rails.

1 SIR CHARLES TODHUNTER MEMORIAL TROPHY (Div. II), (1,100m), rated 20 to 45, 3.15 p.m.: 1. Smile Around (9) Srinath 60, 2. The King N I (10) Likith Appu 58.5, 3. Golden Ring (5) Khurshad 57.5, 4. The Republic Power (4) Sai Kiran 56.5, 5. Bellissimo (7) Chethan K 56, 6. Emma (2) Antony 56, 7. Empress Bella (6) Naveen K 56, 8. Isnt She Beautiful (12) Sandesh 56, 9. Oxytocin (8) L.A. Rozario 56, 10. The Sound Of Music (11) M. Chandrashekar 56, 11. Double Vision (13) Salman K 55, 12. Secret Lady (3) S. Shareef 55 and 13. Ultimate Chance (1) Rayan 55.

1. ISNT SHE BEAUTIFUL, 2. THE KING N I, 3. BELLISSIMO

2 SUTLEJ PLATE (1,800m), rated 00 to 25, 2.45: 1. Turkoman (4) Sandesh 62.5, 2. Rule Of Law (1) Darshan 60.5, 3. Speed Seven (5) L.A. Rozario 60, 4. Osibisa (6) Sai Kiran 58, 5. Love (3) M. Prabhakaran 57 and 6. Sand Castles (2) Vivek 53.

1. TURKOMAN, 2. SPEED SEVEN

3 SIR CHARLES TODHUNTER MEMORIAL TROPHY (Div. I), (1,100m), rated 20 to 45, 3.15: 1. Lauterbrunnen (2) Kiran Rai 62, 2. Star Admiral (9) L.A. Rozario 62, 3. Forty Niner (8) Tousif 61, 4. The Response (5) Sai Kiran 61, 5. Tripitaka (7) B.L. Paswan 61, 6. Appsara (1) Likith Appu 60, 7. Chisox (4) Shreyas S 60, 8. Domina (13) Antony 58, 9. The Golden Dream (11) Naveen K 58, 10. Fare Weather (6) Chethan K 55, 11. Peridot (3) Salman K 55, 12. Scarlet Ibis (10) R. Pradeep 55 and 13. The Grey Geranium (12) M. Chandrashekar 5.

1. TRIPITAKA, 2. LAUTERBRUNNEN, 3. DOMINA

4 D.M. SHIVASWAMY MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,600m), rated 40 to 65, 3.45: 1. Silvarius (2) S. John 62.5, 2. Elusive Girl (1) L.A. Rozario 59, 3. Douglas (5) Srinath 57.5, 4. Prague (4) Trevor 57.5, 5. Only You (8) Sandesh 56, 6. Southern Dynasty (7) Nazerul 55, 7. Scribbling Hopper (3) S. Shareef 54 and 8. Angel Bliss (-) (-) 52.5.

1. PRAGUE, 2. ONLY YOU, 3. DOUGLAS

5 WOLF 777 BANGALORE 2000 GUINEAS (1,600m), 3-y-o colts, (Terms), 4.15: 1. Aldgate (3) Antony 57, 2. Disruptor (4) Darshan 57, 3. Fortunatus (2) Sandesh 57, 4. King Louis (5) Srinath 57, 5. Last Wish (6) P.S. Chouhan 57, 6. Shamrock (1) Suraj 57, 7. Siege Courageous (7) Trevor 57 and 8. Wild Emperor (8) Ashhad Asbar 57.

1. KING LOUIS, 2. SHAMROCK, 3. SIEGE COURAGEOUS

6 KITTY BANK PLATE (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 4-y-o & over, 4.45: 1. Silver Dew (10) Darshan 60, 2. Extraordinary (7) Sai Kiran 59, 3. Fernet Branca (8) Antony 58.5, 4. Southern Ruler (6) Nazerul 58.5, 5. Anakin (1) Jagadeesh 57.5, 6. Del Mar (9) P.S. Chouhan 57.5, 7. Secretsuperstar (2) Chethan K 56.5, 8. Skyfire (3) Srinath 55.5, 9. Flying Quest (5) Likith Appu 55 and 10. In A Breeze (4) L.A. Rozario 54.

1. DEL MAR, 2. SKYFIRE, 3. FERNET BRANCA

7 DECEMBER PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5.15: 1. Caesars Palace (4) S. Shareef 60, 2. Splendido (5) Sandesh 60, 3. Dr Logan (2) Vaibhav 58, 4. Always Happy (3) Antony 55, 5. El Alamein (9) Rayan 55, 6. Masteroftheskies (8) Chethan K 55, 7. Urban Borbon (1) Nazerul 55, 8. Altair (6) Sai Kiran 54 and 9. Akasi (7) Vivek 52.

1. SPLENDIDO, 2. URBAN BORBON, 3. ALWAYS HAPPY

Day's best: **SPLENDIDO**

Double: **TURKOMAN - PRAGUE**

Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

Victoria Punch wins Bangalore 1000 Guineas

BENGALURU: Irfan Ghatala trained Victoria Punch (Trevor up) won the Wolf 777 Bangalore 1000 Guineas, the feature event held here on Friday (Dec. 16). The winner is owned by Mr. C. Ananda. Trainer Irfan Ghatala won three races on the day. Trevor, who rode confidently, kept the filly a handy fifth till the bend before manoeuvring his mount from outside in the home stretch. Victoria Punch responded well to the reminders and started galloping with giant strides to pass the leader Tough Cookie in the last 50m and won.

1. MALAPRABHA PLATE (Div. I), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over: **SMITHSONIAN** (Neeraj) 1, Baltimore (Antony) 2, Air Blast (R. Pradeep) 3 and The Strength (Sai Kiran) 4. Not run: Starry Wind. 6, 1-1/2 and 3. 1m 13.62s. ₹ 20 (w), 13 and 21 (p), SHP: 38, THP: 38, FP: 98, Q: 61, Trinella: 82 and 41, Exacta: 255 and 140. Favourite: Smithsonian.

Owner and trainer: Mr. Aravind Ganapathy.

2. LINGANAMAKKI PLATE (1,800m), rated 20 to 45: **TIGNANELLO** (Antony) 1, Ripple N Storm (Trevor) 2, Banksy (Sandesh) 3 and Stellar Gold (Neeraj) 4. 3-3/4, 2-1/2 and 1. 1m 52.48s. ₹ 28 (w), 15, 10 and 25 (p), SHP: 30, THP: 54, FP: 72, Q: 37, Trinella: 619 and 333, Exacta: 1,275 and 475. Favourite: Ripple N Storm.

Owner: M/s. Rapar Galloping Stars LLP rep by. Mr. Rajendran. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

3. ARDENT KNIGHT TROPHY (1,200m), maiden 2-y-o only, (Terms): **CAT WHISKERS** (Neeraj) 1, Last Waltz (Salman K) 2, Ruling Dynasty (Srinath) 3 and Galahad (Shreyas S) 4. Not run: Bourbon Bay. 3/4, 1-1/4 and 1-1/2. 1m 14.53s. ₹ 81 (w), 28 and 45 (p), SHP: 88, THP: 39, FP: 530, Q: 366, Trinella: 1,131 and 438, Exacta: 2,122 and 2,208. Favourite: Ruling Dynasty.

Owner: Mr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: Aravind Ganapathy.

Proud moment: Shivkumar Kheny, Chairman, Turf Authorities of India & Chairman, BTC, gives away The Wolf 777 Bangalore 1000 Guineas Trophy to C. Ananda, left, owner of Victoria Punch, trainer Irfan Ghatala, right, and jockey P. Trevor. K. MURALI KUMAR

4. BANGALORE TURF CLUB TROPHY (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, (Terms): **GOLDEN OAKS** (Sandesh) 1, Ascoval (Srinath) 2, Golden Guest (Antony) 3 and Kensington Court (Trevor) 4. 3/4, 4 and 1-3/4. 1m 12.37s. ₹ 22 (w), 14 and 10 (p), SHP: 24, THP: 27, FP: 32, Q: 15, Trinella: 103 and 57. Favourite: Ascoval.

Owners: Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt Ltd rep by. Mr. Yohan Z. Poonawalla, Mr. Michelle Y. Poonawalla, Mr. Zavary S. Poonawalla & Mr. Behroze Z. Poonawalla, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala & M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP rep by. Mr. D.R. Thacker. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

5. WOLF 777 BANGALORE 1000 GUINEAS (1,600m), 3-y-o fillies, (Terms): **VICTORIA PUNCH** (SANUS PER AQUAM-STRICTLY) **TREVOR 1,** Philosophy (Speaking Of Which-Manifold) Sandesh 2, Mirra (Speaking Of Which-Myrtlewood) Antony 3 and Tough Cookie (Cougar Mountain-Edith Piaf) P.S. Chouhan 4. Nk, Shd and 1/2. 1m 37.62s. ₹ 47 (w), 15, 12 and 13 (p), SHP: 28, THP: 45, FP: 179, Q: 91, Trinella: 299 and 127, Exacta: 2,194 and 1,723. Favourite: Philosophy.

Owner: Mr. C. Ananda. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

6. PREMIUM SPIRIT STAKES (1,400m), rated 60 to 85: IMPERIAL BLUE (Antony) 1, Peyo (Vinod Shinde) 2, Watchmystars (Trevor) 3 and Promise Kept (Neeraj) 4. 3, 1 and 3-3/4. 1m 25.35s. ₹ 42 (w), 21 and 26 (p), SHP: 53, THP: 37, FP: 253, Q: 141, Trinella: 448 and 159, Exacta: 860 and 375. Favourite: Watchmystar.

Owner: M/s. Arun Alagappa Racing LLP. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

7. MALAPRABHA PLATE (Div. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over: CHAIN OF THOUGHTS (Shreyas S) 1, Rightly Noble (Srinath) 2, Pastiche (Darshan) 3 and Elite Agent (Angad) 4. 2, 3-1/4 and 1/2. 1m 14.01s. ₹ 51 (w), 17, 13 and 22 (p), SHP: 42, THP: 59, FP: 186, Q: 59, Trinella: 916 and 337, Exacta: 5,554 and 2,197. Favourite: Rightly Noble.

Owners: Mr. Santhosh G & Mr. Francis Arun Kumar. Trainer: Neil Devaney.

Jackpot: ₹70,341 (two tkts); Runner-up: 3,546 (17 tkts); Treble (i): 1,656 (four tkts); (ii): 987 (18 tkts).

MEN DOWN

Varane and Konate miss training for virus-hit France

Raphael Varane, *in pic*, and Ibrahima Konate were among five France players who missed training on Friday, two days before the final against Argentina. The two centre-backs have reportedly become the latest members of the squad to be affected by a virus, according to French media.

ON THE ANVIL

FIFA to launch a World Series soon; Club WC in Morocco

The FIFA will launch a World Series — a friendly tournament between teams of different confederations soon. Its president Gianni Infantino said the new international calendar will have a provision for this series. Morocco will host the 2022 Club World Cup, he informed.

BATTLE FOR THIRD

Morocco and Croatia play for podium finish in Qatar WC

Morocco coach Walid Regragui's history-making team — the first African nation to reach the semifinals — will play Croatia for the third spot on Saturday. "It's like the booby prize," Regragui said. "For me, my takeaway is that we didn't get to the final."

END OF AN ERA

Busquets to retire from international football

Sergio Busquets, who has been a mainstay in Spain's midfield for more than a decade and helped the country win the 2010 World Cup, is retiring from international football after 143 appearances for Spain. The 34-year-old captained the side at the World Cup in Qatar.

THANK YOU, NEXT!

Santos quits, Jose Mourinho tipped as Portugal successor

Fernando Santos quit as coach of Portugal on Thursday following the team's shock quarterfinal loss with Jose Mourinho named as a leading candidate to take over. The FPF said an agreement was reached with Santos "to end the journey of great success that began in 2014".

The subcontinental touch in Argentina's journey

The support from the India and Bangladesh staff at Qatar University, the training base for *La Albiceleste*, has given Messi and his men extra energy in their historic title bid

FIFA WORLD CUP

Ayon Sengupta
DOHA

Moment in the sun: Mumbai's Ishraque Ahmad is living his dream, rubbing shoulders with Lionel Messi almost every day. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A hurried metro ride – where merry-making Argentines create quite an obstacle to run down the escalator – and a shared bus ride with a driver from Kerala behind the wheel and three strangers takes you to the deserted Qatar University, the students enjoying a much-needed winter break. But as you near one of the many training pitches inside the campus after a five-minute-long drive, you could suddenly see a sea of people, the security doing their best dealing with anxious journalists.

As you jostle to get your seat in the hastily constructed media tribune, you could see Rodrigo de Paul, Alexis Mac Allister, Paulo Dybala and a host of other Argentina players going through the passing drill under the watchful eyes of Lionel Scaloni. But the other Lionel is nowhere in sight. But Angel Di Maria, who had missed the last three matches, is there and should be available for the clash against France.

The University campus has been Argentina's home away from home in Qatar. The team has stayed in the guest house and used the facilities here, while the other 31 teams had picked one of the many luxurious resorts and hotels dotting Doha.

The University, with three swimming pools, including an Olympic pool, a multi-activity central court, volleyball, handball, basketball, futsal, tennis courts, a stadium with football field and athletics track and a fitness and rehabilitation centre made an ideal choice for the South American champion, which was looking for a place away from the limelight but inside the city at an easy drivable distance from all the stadiums.

As the 15-minute open training session continued there were no signs of Messi, but there was a familiar face sharing the bench with Nicolas Otamendi and Leandro Parades. Sergio Aguero, a year after his sudden retirement, was present at the training to motivate his friends ahead of the biggest match.

Also around, is a group of boisterous Indians and Bangladeshis. Chefs, kitchen helps, house-keeping personnel – they have been looking after Team Messi for the past one month. They have been a constant at every Argentine training session, ensuring the World Cup finalists don't miss the fandom and madness associated with the country's football.

The Argentines, too, have been appreciative of this love and warmth. The team presented all the staff with a gift set decked in Argentine colours.

Ishraque Ahmad from Mumbai has been in Doha for two years and he says he is living his dream every day. "The whole team has treated us like family. I also spoke with Messi, their captain. He speaks in broken English, and he is a very humble person and talks nicely with everyone," Ahmad says. His most-prized possession now is a picture with the seven-time *Ballon d'Or* winner and a jersey signed by him.

The story is same for one of the catering staff, who has been helping the two Argentine chefs who have travelled with the team. "They usually have a late breakfast and then spend some time in the gym. Training usually starts post lunch," he says.

The team had a low-key celebration with family after the semifinal victory over Croatia. "They had dinner with their families at the club house and there was soft music," says a person from the catering team.

Coach Scaloni voiced his appreciation for the support from the subcontinental diaspora which has given the players extra energy during their campaign. "For years, our team shirt has created a frenzy throughout the world because we had Diego (Maradona)... now we have Leo (Messi). It makes us happy to see people from Bangladesh and many other places standing up for us."

When Argentina meets France on Sunday, the Indian and Bangladesh support staff would be delighted to have played a small but significant part in the team's historic journey.

Unanimous praise for the World Cup, says Infantino

Sea of fans: It has been nothing less than a festival for football lovers with crowds thronging stadiums in Qatar. AP

Ayon Sengupta
DOHA

With 62 matches played and a mouth-watering final coming up between defending champion France and Lionel Messi's Argentina, FIFA president Gianni Infantino again called this the "best World Cup ever".

"There's unanimous praise from the FIFA council for this World Cup and for the unique, cohesive power it has showed. I thank Qatar, the organisers, volunteers and everyone who have made this World Cup the best ever," Infantino told the world media here.

"3.27 million spectators attended the first 62 games; the number was 3.03 for all games in 2018. The average attendance was 52,760, while 1.7 million attended the fan fest – 80,000 on average. No team has won all its games, and a team from each continent was there in the knockouts... we had an African team in the semifinal and a woman also officiated a match (Stephanie Frappart took charge of the game between Germany and Costa Rica)."

Infantino said India was second in Hayya Card applications to travel to Qatar for the World Cup. "We had 2.3 million Hayya applications and 1.9 million were approved. The top countries were Saudi Arabia, India and USA," Infantino said. "We have four hundred thousand applications for volunteers and 20,000 were selected."

FIFA's revenue in the four-year World Cup cycle also exceeded its own estimates. "The revenue is at $7.5 billion for the four-year cycle and it's one billion more than what was budgeted, and this is in a period hit by COVID. The budget for the next cycle has been approved at $11 billion, out of which $10 billion will go back to football," Infantino said. "We are also setting up a talent development scheme for $100 million under Arsene Wenger."

Infantino and FIFA are hoping the 2026 edition will make a big impact in North America. "We are bullish about the power of football, or soccer as they call it, where we are going next. We are convinced that the game will be massive in North America in terms of revenue from broadcasting, sponsorship, ticketing, hospitality in huge stadiums normally used for American football with 80-90,000 capacity. We're expecting five million fans travelling specifically for these events."

Gill and Pujara's hundreds help India set a mammoth 513-run target for Bangladesh

N. Sudarshan
CHATTOGRAM

Opening the account: Gill made the most of the opportunity to notch up his maiden Test hundred. AFP

India buried Bangladesh under a mountain of runs on day three of the first Test at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium here, leaving the hosts to chase a mammoth 513 – 95 more than the existing world record – for victory.

On Friday morning, after excising the Bangladesh tail for the addition of just 17 runs to its overnight score, K.L. Rahul didn't enforce the follow-on and chose to build on the 254-run first-innings lead.

Though he fell for another score in the 20s (23, 62b, 3x4), Shubman Gill and Cheteshwar Pujara made full use of the opportunity.

Gill scored his maiden Test century (110, 152b, 10x4, 3x6) after four fifties, while Pujara accounted for his 19th and fastest-ever ton (102 n.o., 130b, 13x4), his first in almost four years, as India made 258 runs from nearly 62 overs. At stumps, Bangladesh was 42 for no loss.

Possible reasons

There may be multiple reasons as to why India batted again, and batted that long. Perhaps to give its stroke-makers more time against the Bangladesh spinners ahead of the Dhaka Test and also to avoid more of its players joining the injury list.

Or the simple matter of going in only for the assured kill like an efficient volleyer would on a tennis court. It's debatable whether that needed an insurance of a target in excess of 500. Bangladesh's most successful chase is 217, against West Indies way back in 2009.

But Gill and Pujara revelled. Each of their innings had two contrasting phases; it all boiled gently at first before erupting like a volcano. Gill and Rahul scored just 36 runs from the first 15 overs, nudging and steering mostly square of the wicket. But Gill shifted gears soon, scoring boundaries in quick succession, with his trademark half-cut, half-punch the stand-out shot.

Bangladesh employed the short-ball tactic, and Khaled Ahmed got Rahul to pull straight to Taijul Islam in the fine-leg area. Gill, though, wouldn't be consumed by the ploy. At times, there were as many as seven men stationed on the leg-side, but he didn't flinch. A slapped six over deep backward square-leg decided the winner in that battle.

Pujara, seemingly smitten by his companion's rate of scoring, took on the bowlers, pulling and sweeping efficiently, and stepping out to play his classic whipped shots, where the bat in hand threatens to turn over the earth near the crease like a plough would.

With no breakthrough in sight, skipper Shakib Al Hasan – who didn't bowl for the second successive day because of a rib injury – waved the white flag by bringing on part-time off-spinner Litton Das.

Gill would have none of it and welcomed him with a six over long-on. A fine reverse sweep off Mehidy Hasan got him to 99 before he reached the three-figure mark with a one-bounce four to long-on.

Pujara was on 41 off 81 balls at that stage. The 34-year-old's next 49 balls fetched 61 runs. The ethereal patient accumulator had turned into a daring man of action.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
404 in 133.5 overs

BANGLADESH — 1ST INNINGS
Najmul Hossain c Pant b Siraj 0 *(1b)*, Zakir Hasan c Pant b Siraj 20 *(45b, 3x4)*, Yasir Ali b Umesh 4 *(17b)*, Litton Das b Siraj 24 *(30b, 5x4)*, Mushfiqur Rahim lbw b Kuldeep 28 *(58b, 3x4)*, Shakib Al Hasan c Kohli b Kuldeep 3 *(25b)*, Nurul Hasan c Gill b Kuldeep 16 *(22b, 3x4)*, Mehidy Hasan st. Pant b Axar 25 *(82b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Taijul Islam b Kuldeep 0 *(4b)*, Ebadot Hossain c Pant b Kuldeep 17 *(37b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Khaled Ahmed (not out) 0 *(14b)*; Extras (b-6, lb-7): 13; Total (in 55.5 overs): 150.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-0 (Najmul, 0.1 overs), 2-5 (Yasir, 3.3), 3-39 (Litton, 13.2), 4-56 (Zakir, 17.2), 5-75 (Shakib, 24.2), 6-97 (Nurul, 32.1), 7-102 (Mushfiqur, 34.2), 8-102 (Taijul, 34.6), 9-144 (Ebadot, 48.5).

INDIA BOWLING
Siraj 13-2-20-3, Umesh 8-1-33-1, Ashwin 10-1-34-0, Kuldeep 16-6-40-5, Axar 8.5-4-10-1.

INDIA — 2ND INNINGS
K.L. Rahul c Taijul b Khaled 23 *(62b, 3x4)*, Shubman Gill c sub (Mahmudul) b Mehidy 110 *(152b, 10x4, 3x6)*, Cheteshwar Pujara (not out) 102 *(130b, 13x4)*, Virat Kohli (not out) 19 *(29b)*; Extras (lb-1, nb-3): 4; Total (for two wkts. decl. in 61.4 overs): 258.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-70 (Rahul, 22.4), 2-183 (Gill, 49.3).

BANGLADESH BOWLING
Khaled 13-0-51-1, Taijul 23.4-3-71-0, Mehidy 14-1-82-1, Yasir 6-0-28-0, Litton 2-0-13-0, Najmul 3-0-12-0.

BANGLADESH — 2ND INNINGS
Najmul Hossain (batting) 25 *(42b, 3x4)*, Zakir Hasan (batting) 17 *(30b, 3x4)*; Total (for no loss in 12 overs): 42.

INDIA BOWLING
Siraj 3-0-11-0, Umesh 1-1-0-0, Ashwin 5-1-23-0, Axar 2-0-4-0, Kuldeep 1-0-4-0.

Kuldeep... spinning it right. AP

We have plenty of time, says Kuldeep

N. Sudarshan
CHATTOGRAM

Bangladesh may be down in the dumps, but all-rounder Mehidy Hasan hoped that the batters would come good during the 513-run fourth innings chase.

"The wicket improves in Chattogram. Although it is a big challenge, it is also a huge opportunity for our batters to play a long innings. Two days are remaining. Playing well in this match will give a lot of confidence," he said.

India spinner Kuldeep Yadav did not agree with the view that India displayed a negative mindset by not declaring early.

"Not really, we still have two days to go," Kuldeep said. "We have plenty of time, 180 overs. And you cannot predict how any team bats. Sometimes 400 may look easy, if someone gets set and gets close. It is not that we are afraid, but we wanted to bat till the drinks break after tea."

INBRIEF

Neeraj Chopra displaces Usain Bolt in global interest charts

Usain Bolt has failed to top the list of the most written about athletes for the first time in years. World Athletics said that in 2022, Indian javelin star Neeraj Chopra displaced the charismatic Bolt. Neeraj leads the way with 812 articles ahead of a troika of Jamaican women sprint stars, Elaine Thompson-Herah (751 articles), world 100m champion Shelley-Ann Fraser-Pryce (698) and world 200m champion Shericka Jackson (679), with Bolt featuring in 574. World Athletics quoted figures from media analysis company Unicepta.

Court ends CoA's mandate; TTFI's EC to assume charge

With the Delhi High Court ending the mandate of the Committee of Administrators (CoA) and clearing the way for the recently-elected Executive Committee of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) to operate the accounts of the federation, decks are clear for a late but fresh start. Following the court order on Thursday, the TTFI Executive can go ahead with its plan of taking over charge on Dec. 19. The TTFI elections were held on Dec. 5 but the Executive could not operate the bank account without the Court's order. The new team headed by president Meghna Ahlawat, that includes secretary-general and eight-time National champion Kamlesh Mehta, faces an arduous task of hosting all three National championships, all five zonal ranking tournaments and the inter-institutional championship before March 31. The TTFI's long-overdue Annual General Meeting will be held shortly to get domestic table tennis back on rails.

LIVE TELECAST

Australia vs South Africa: 1st Test, day 1, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5.30 a.m.

Bangladesh vs India: 1st Test, day 4, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 9 a.m.

Pakistan vs England: 3rd Test, day 1, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10.30 a.m.

I-League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 2 p.m.

ISL: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 5.30 & 7.30 p.m.

India Women vs Australia Women: 4th T20I, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7 p.m.

PKL: Final, Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

FIFA World Cup 2022: Third-place playoff, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8,30 p.m.

Karnataka plays it safe, settles for a draw

The home side, hesitant to go all out in search of a victory and full points, declares at 253 for four, leaving Services with a target of 297

RANJI TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Karnataka's R. Samarth helped himself to a century on the final day of a drawn Ranji Trophy match against Services at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Friday. Opener Samarth recorded his eleventh First Class century, staying unbeaten on 119.

Starting the day with an overall lead of 133 runs, Karnataka chose the safe approach by batting till lunch. The home team declared on 253 for four, leaving Services with a target of 297.

Left with little to no chance of gaining an outright win, Services shut shop. Ravi Chauhan (66 n.o., 105b, 10x4) and Aanshul Gupta (71 n.o., 9x4, 2x6) held firm to deny Karnataka the full quota of points.

The first three Services wickets fell by the 12th over, which left Chauhan and Aanshul with work to do. The duo was up to the task, sticking around for 27.2 overs to steer Services to safety. The match came to an early close with Services on 150 for three.

Karnataka was hesitant to go all-out in search of a victory. If the unit had declared an hour earlier and left itself with a short, sharp go at the Services batters before Lunch, a result could have been on the cards. A defensive field set to Chauhan and Aanshul also revealed that Karnataka was not keen on anything more than three points.

Samarth, resuming on 40, began to bat freely once he got settled in. "We took a little bit of time to see what happens. We also knew they (Services) would be slightly defensive. The plan was to get quick runs," Samarth said.

Karnataka next takes on Puducherry, at the same venue, here on Tuesday.

Slow and steady: Samarth recorded his eleventh First Class century, staying unbeaten on 119.
SUDHAKARA JAIN

The score:

Karnataka — 1st innings: 304

Services — 1st innings: 261

Karnataka — 2nd innings: R. Samarth (not out) 119, Mayank Agarwal lbw b Guleria 73, Nikin Jose lbw b Guleria 2, Manish Pandey b Narang 23, Vishal Onat b Narang 14, K. Gowtham (not out) 17, Extras (b-1, w-1, nb-3): 5; Total (for four wickets decl., in 56 overs): 253.

Fall of wickets: 1-143, 2-149, 3-194, 4-232.

Services bowling: Pathania 8-0-53-0, Nishan 7-2-23-0, Guleria 15-2-59-2, Narang 16-1-68-2, Rahul Singh 10-1-49-0.

Services — 2nd innings: S.G. Rohilla c Sharath b More 1, Ravi Chauhan (not out) 66, Rahul Gahlaut c Pandey b Kaverappa 10, Rahul Singh lbw b Gowtham 0, Aanshul Gupta (not out) 71, Extras (b-1, lb-1): 2; Total (for three wickets, in 39 overs): 150.

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-16, 3-21.

Karnataka bowling: Kaverappa 7-3-15-1, More 9-3-29-1, Gowtham 12-1-50-1, Vyshak 5-0-18-0, Gopal 6-1-36-0.

MoM: Diwesh Pathania.

RANJI SCORES: ROUND 1, FINAL DAY

Elite: Group A: Uttarakhand 282 & 306/7 decl. in 70 overs (Priyanshu Khanduri 73, Swapnil Singh 88 n.o.) bt Nagaland 389 & 25 in 18 overs (Mayank Mishra 5/4, Swapnil Singh 4/21). **Points: Uttarakhand 6, Nagaland 0.**

Odisha 457 drew with Baroda 624/8 decl. in 172.4 overs (Jyotsnil Singh 63, Pratyush Kumar 44, Shashwat Rawat 135, Priyanshu Moliya 118, Abhimanyusingh Rajput 102 n.o., Bhargav Bhatt 87). **Baroda 3, Odisha 1.**

Uttar Pradesh 198 & 227 lost to Bengal 169 & 259/4 in 74.5 overs (Koushik Ghosh 69, Anustup Majumdar 83, Manoj Tiwary 60 n.o.). **Bengal 6, UP 0.**

Haryana 46 & 353 in 123 overs (Chaitanya Bishnoi 97, Himanshu Rana 87, Yashu Sharma 42) lost to Himachal Pradesh 487/4 decl. **HP 7, Haryana 0.**

Group B: Assam 286 & 366/6 in 102 overs (Kunal Saikia 60, Riyan Parag 95, Sibsankar Roy 75) drew with Saurashtra 492. **Saurashtra 3, Assam 1.**

Hyderabad 395 & 258 in 85 overs (Tanmay Agarwal 46, Tanay Thyagarajan 69, Rohit Rayudu 45, R. Sai Kishore 5/101) drew with Tamil Nadu 510/4 decl. & 108/1 in 7 overs (B. Sai Sudharsan 42, N. Jagadeesan 59 n.o.). **TN 3, Hyderabad 1.**

Delhi 191 & 310 in 98.4 overs (Yash Dhull 57, Nitish Rana 40, Vaibhav Rawal 55, Himmat Singh 84) lost to Maharashtra 324 & 180/1 in 45.4 overs (Pavan Shah 87 n.o., Kaushal Tambe 64 n.o.). **Maharashtra 6, Delhi 0.**

Group C: Kerala 475 & 187/7 decl. in 36 overs (Rohan Prem 74, Shahbaz Nadeem 5/79) bt Jharkhand 340 & 237 in 61.2 overs (Kumar Kushagra 92, Jalaj Saxena 4/56, Vaisakh Chandran 5/57). **Kerala 6, Jharkhand 0.**

Karnataka 304 & 253/4 decl. in 56 overs (R. Samarth 119 n.o., Mayank Agarwal 73) drew with Services 261 & 150/3 in 39 overs (Ravi Chauhan 66 n.o., Anshul Gupta 71 n.o.). **Karnataka 3, Services 1.**

Goa 547/9 decl. drew with Rajasthan 456 in 133.1 overs (Yash Kothari 96, Mahipal Lomror 63, Salman Khan 40, Manav Suthar 48, Arafat Khan 80 n.o., Mohit Redkar 5/113). **Goa 3, Rajasthan 1.**

Group D: Gujarat 271 & 233/8 decl. in 60.2 overs (Priyank Panchal 85, Karan Patel 46, Manisankar Murasingh 5/85) drew with Tripura 293 & 116/3 in 36 overs (Sridam Paul 55 n.o.). **Tripura 3, Gujarat 1.**

Punjab 586/4 decl. drew with Chandigarh 389 in 174.2 overs (Arjit Pannu 121, Ankit Kaushik 48, Gaurav Puri 131) & 92/6 in 37 overs (Ankit Kaushik 49). **Punjab 3, Chandigarh 1.**

Vidarbha 213 & 420/8 decl. bt Railways 161 & 278 in 92.2 overs (Amit Mishra 119, Akshay Wakhare 4/83, Aditya Sarwate 4/94). **Vidarbha 6, Railways 0.**

Plate: Manipur 186 & 193 lost to Sikkim 220 & 160/2 in 54.2 overs (Pankaj Rawat 72 n.o., Nilesh Lamichaney 74). **Sikkim 6, Manipur 0.**

Mizoram 252 & 216 lost to Meghalaya 171 & 300/8 in 105.4 overs (Kishan Lyngdoh 40, Punit Bisht 53, Swarajeet Das 53, Avinash Yadav 5/103). **Meghalaya 6, Mizoram 0.**

Mumbai City rises to the top

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Mumbai City FC climbed to the top of the current Indian Super League standings with a dominant 3-0 win over host East Bengal, here on Friday.

Lalengmawia Ralte (Apuia) scored a brace while Greg Stewart scored once to help Mumbai City tally 24 points from 10 matches and surpass Hyderabad FC (22) at the top.

The visitor started on a confident note and showed the right shape and balance to dominate. Mumbai City stamped its authority in the 26th minute when an essay of fine passes between Mandar Rao Dessai and Stewart released Lalengmawia Ralte to score a nice goal.

Despite being the home side East Bengal failed to bring out much on the attacking front.

East Bengal slipped into a greater crisis after the break as coach Stephen Constantine rang in three changes. But this did not help as Mumbai City doubled its lead in the 50th minute with Stewart scoring a spectacular goal himself.

Everything was over for East Bengal in the 59th minute when Apuia scored his second to make it 3-0.

The result:

East Bengal 0 lost to Mumbai City 3 (Apuia 26, 59, Stewart 50).

BFC will look to bounce back

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Struggling units Bengaluru FC (BFC) and Jamshedpur FC (JFC) come face to face in the Indian Super League (ISL) at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Saturday. BFC is currently ninth with seven points, while Jamshedpur FC sits below with four points.

BFC suffered its second successive defeat last week after a 3-2 loss against Kerala Blasters FC. BFC has only two wins in nine ISL games. BFC has also scored the joint-fewest goals this season, level with Jamshedpur FC.

BFC's Sunil Chhetri scored from the spot in the previous game to finally get off the mark this season. New signing, Spaniard Pablo Perez, could be in contention to start on Saturday.

"It's a game between two teams that are not in very good form. Jamshedpur is a fine example of 'Football is never easy.' They have found it really tough this year for many different reasons," said BFC head coach Simon Grayson.

"Our football club has been very successful in the past and have found it difficult in the last few years. Football clubs have highs and lows, but both clubs are in the wrong position as of now," Grayson added.

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